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January 28, 2009



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ISSN 1753-123-3



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Picture: TONY GRAY

TOWN EYE UP PROMOTION

Faversham Town shot themselves into the reckoning for a promotion-pushing season at the weekend with a 2-1 win at Lordswood.

The result fired the Lilywhites into third place - just five points off second, but with a game in hand, and one step away from a promotion place. The Salters Lane outfit clinched victory with a goal by Steve O'Brien (pictured, in white, above).

FULL STORY PAGE 46-47

■ BY NICK AMES

COUNCIL chiefs say nearly £200,000 being splashed out on recruiting a new chief executive is money well spent - despite the credit crunch.

The hunt to fill the chief executive vacancy is now under way with the successful candidate pocketing a £130,000 salary.

In addition there will be sizeable performance-related bonuses.

A further £30,000 is being paid to a specialist recruitment consultancy.

All of which will fuel suggestions it is a mighty price to pay as taxpayers batten down the hatches amid the economic gloom.

Senior Labour councillor Roger Truelove said: "It is a large amount of money but we have been told it is the going rate. Well, in that case, I feel we are paying local government officials too much.

"If someone has just lost their job and they read that this sum of money is being offered to someone for running what is really a small local council they may be upset. Also, I understand people thinking the money would be far better spent on services.

"Likewise I see residents might question whether this is the best use for their council tax. But we do need a chief executive - we need the leadership.

"Without one we may lose out on investment from both Government and the private sector."

The local authority has been without someone in the top role since the Mark Bilsborough

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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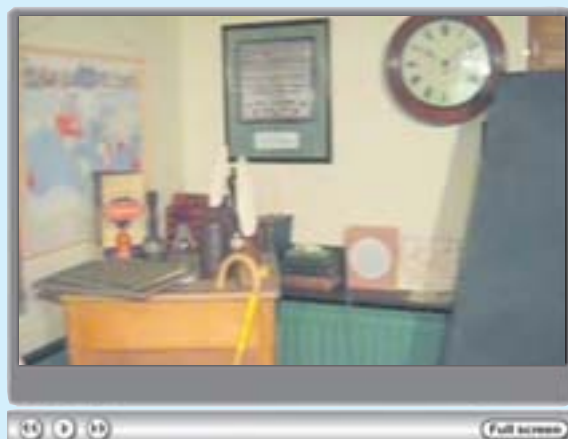
WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Facebook bites back at town's radical road scheme.
See the community channel and search 'Facebook'



2 Visit a Victorian classroom – complete with cane.
See the community channel and search 'Victorian'.



3 Is it time to dredge Ramsgate harbour? You be the judge.
See the community channel and search 'Ramsgate'

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Cigarette flicked from car proves costly for smoker

IT'S an expensive habit at the best of times, but for one man a single cigarette has set him back more than £300.

Nathan Chapman, of St John's Road, Faversham, was spotted dropping a cigarette out of a car window on July 3 last year.

He was seen by a Swale council environmental enforcement officer flicking the butt from the driver's window of a Ford Fiesta.

The officer noted down the registration number and he was sent a fixed penalty notice of £80.

But the notice was not paid and Chapman failed to contact the environmental response team or to respond to any letters.

And last week he paid a high price as he was prosecuted for the original offence.

Survey

He entered a 'not guilty' plea at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court last Tuesday, but was found guilty of littering under Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Chapman was ordered to pay a £100 fine, a £15 victim surcharge and was ordered to pay Swale council £200 costs.

Council spokesman Malcolm Hewson said: "Dropping litter can be a costly mistake in Swale. Regardless of whether you are in the street or in

■ BY NICK AMES

a car, we will catch up with you. Street wardens and enforcement officers will issue fixed penalty notices to anyone who commits an offence.

"A recent survey suggested that up to 75 per cent of litter on the street is smoking related.

"Council officers, and other key partners such as Clean Kent, have put a lot of effort into making Swale cleaner and trends suggest that our balance of enforcement work and proactive campaigns are having a positive impact.

"This conviction sends out the clear message that we will not tolerate anti-social behaviour."

Swale council is at the forefront of chasing people and taking court action for litter dropping among local authorities across the county in a bid to clean up the borough.

• THE number of recycling points across Swale looks set to be reduced.

Demand has fallen off since the council introduced its household blue bins and they are now not as popular.

The council was also told that many of the 60 recycling points across the borough are in need of repair.

However, not all of the sites will be phased out as not every household is receiving the recycling bin as part of its collection service.

• Email yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

Successful candidate announced in March

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

affair finally came to an end last April. He was appointed in January 2006, and then controversially put on 'gardening leave' for 16 months in December 2006 amid allegations concerning his conduct.

A disciplinary hearing finally ruled in favour of senior council officers who complained about him and he was dismissed in April 2008. He later withdrew a claim for unfair dismissal.

Since then an interim chief executive, Mike Fisher, was drafted in.

The closing date for applications will be Friday, February 13, with a shortlist drawn up by March 11 and an announcement of the successful candidate on March 26 at a meeting of the full council.

Timetable

Specialist consultants Solace Enterprises will handle the recruitment.

The council said the salary "will ensure the best candidates are attracted to the role and that Swale council recruits an ambitious and engaging individual with a track record of achievement in leadership and management, who will be charged with helping the council to tackle the significant challenges it faces over the next few years".

Council leader Andrew Bowles said: "I am really pleased we are now looking forward and have a timetable in place for the recruitment of the new chief executive."

yourswale
NEWS IN BRIEF

Calling all prospective councillors to stand

THE date for the by-election for Davington Priory ward for Faversham town council has been confirmed as Thursday, March 12.

Anyone interested in standing to become a councillor should contact the council's democratic services team for a nomination pack by email: elections@swale.gov.uk.

Alternatively they can telephone: 01795 417558 or write to the returning officer for Swale council or the town clerk at Faversham's Alexander Centre.

Completed forms must be received by noon on Friday, February 13.

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Home at last; window back from Windy City

■ BY NICK AMES

IT MAY look like an old-fashioned shop window, but this is a globe-trotting piece of Faversham's heritage.

And after a remarkable trip across the Atlantic, it is now back and proving a big attraction at the town museum.

The shop front of 4 Market Place, dates from the 1840s when it was a confectionery store. But in 1932 it was stripped down and sold by an antiques dealer.

Incredibly, it was snapped up by an entrepreneur who displayed it as an example of "a typical European shop facade" at a museum in Chicago, where it became a popular attraction.

But in recent years the store front was taken off display and the owners decided to sell it.

Museum chiefs contacted the New York branch of auctioneers Sotheby's, who agreed to act on their behalf.

In the meantime, they also made contact with staff at Faversham museum in Preston Street, who said they would like it back.

So the auctioneers donated it to the town – and even paid the shipping fees as well.

Now the window, with a series of notice boards telling its unusual story, is on show at the museum.

The display also recalls the businesses that occupied 4 Market Place. Today it houses a Chinese restaurant. Other attractions in the museum include recreations of shop interiors and a schoolroom, a display of wartime memo-



RIGHTFUL PLACE: The 1840s shop front of 4 Market Place was shipped to the USA in 1932, but is now back home

abilia and sporting equipment and trophies.

Historian Arthur Percival said: "Faversham has a fascinating history, especially for a town of its size."

The museum is offering a special deal for half-term, from Monday to Friday, February 16-

20, when there is no charge for children, and tickets are £2 for adults and £1 for pensioners. The museum and gallery are open from 10am to 4pm (last entry 3pm).

For more details, call 01795 590726 or email fleurmuseum@tiscali.co.uk.

We're listening. Now what's the question?

RESIDENTS will have the chance to discuss community issues at local engagement forums being held across the borough in the coming months.

The meetings are intended to give people more influence over local services.

Councillors and officers from the borough and county councils will be available to answer questions, along with town and parish councillors.

Anyone living in Swale can submit questions, statements or petitions to be discussed. There will also be the opportunity for informal talks with borough and county officers before the meeting.

Swale council leader Cllr Andrew Bowles said: "The forums will give residents a real opportunity to have their say. We hope people will come along to air their views and share their concerns."

"Their contributions could make a real difference to neighbourhoods. Whatever the question is, there should be someone there to answer it."

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Take a stroll through Faversham's history. Search 'Faversham'

Swale's clean streets sweep away all the opposition

SWALE has some of the cleanest streets in the UK, according to an independent examiner.

The borough has one of the top performing councils in the country for street cleaning after receiving a 99 per cent pass rate in a country-wide cleanliness survey.

It was carried out by Government-appointed inspectors as part of a National Indicator project which monitors conditions in towns and villages.

Swale's new street scene officers, supported by street wardens, have been working on reducing the levels of litter, graffiti and fly-posting on the borough's streets.

Between April and November 2008, street wardens issued 58 fixed penalty notices to people caught littering roads and paths.

The public can call and register their concerns about a road or area they feel is not being maintained to an acceptable standard, say council officers. This helps them maintain standards and focus on the areas that need particular help.

To report a litter problem in the borough, call 01795 417850.

Frank bus returns from school jaunt



A CONVERTED Routemaster bus which helps educate schoolchildren about the dangers of drugs has completed a tour of schools in the south west of England.

The Frank bus, which was equipped by Faversham-based Southeast Coachworks, visited 50 schools to teach children about the dangers posed by controlled substances.

Coachworks worked its magic to ensure it was suitably eye-catching.

A spokesman said: "The drug images and quotes from an A-Z of drugs booklet are on the roof, which prompts many questions from pupils and also helps staff illustrate information, especially on the different forms that drugs are available in."

"We also installed a box which contains replica drugs, so pupils can see what they look like in their 'street' form."

"We have had very positive feedback from teachers and pupils alike."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Literature lovers to meet in the Waterstone's café

LOVERS of literature are invited to a meeting of East Kent Live Lit, the literature network. Guest speakers include BBC producer Jessica Dromgoole and Keiren Phelan of Arts Council England South East.

The meeting is on Friday, from 6.30pm to 8pm, at Waterstone's in St Margaret's Street. The talk takes place in Chives café. To reserve a place, email Peggy Riley at livelit@mac.com. For more information visit www.livelit.co.uk.

Expert financial advice at Spring Lane session

FINANCIAL experts will be on hand to offer advice at a free drop-in session in Canterbury on Friday, from 10am-2pm.

Specialists in money, benefits, training and jobs will be at the Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre from 10am-2pm.

Money Talks has been organised by the Riverside Centre, East Kent Enterprise Gateway Services, Canterbury Credit Union and Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre.

Aftershave thief was in breach of city centre ban

SHOPLIFTER Christopher Flippence was caught stealing aftershave from Debenhams.

The 29-year-old admitted taking two bottles worth £108 and breaching bail conditions which banned him from Canterbury city centre. Magistrates were told store detectives saw Flippence, of Godwin Road, Wincheap, put the bottles in his coat and challenged him outside. Flippence was committed to crown court for sentencing.

Make your views known on district's open spaces

WHAT do you think about the parks and open spaces in and around Canterbury?

The city council is asking for views on the management, maintenance and development of its parks, open spaces and allotments.

Forms are available from council offices or the website www.canterbury.gov.uk.

Alternatively, call Ian Cameron-Fleming (allotments) on 862200, or Richard Griffiths (parks and open spaces) on 862001.

The Big Debate

Has caring replaced learning in today's classrooms? Two Canterbury academics debate the pros and cons of the modern focus on feelings in education. **Dennis Hayes**, co-author of *The Dangerous Rise of Therapeutic Education*, and a lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University, is an opponent of the Government's Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme, which he calls "manipulative and dangerous". **Phillip Karnavas**, head teacher of Canterbury High School, recently graded "outstanding" by Ofsted, is a firm supporter of the SEAL scheme, believing it increases pupils' ability to learn.

DENNIS HAYES

THERAPEUTIC education is about manipulating children's emotional lives and trying to control their feelings rather than letting them relate freely to other children, their parents and adults, with love, anger, hatred – the emotions they feel when growing up.

If adults control them, children will never grow up. Teachers committed to teaching their subjects used to be authoritarian and got children to learn.

Now they increasingly want to help them become more confident and in touch with their emotional lives, so that they can learn, but this is indirectly authoritarian and manipulative.

Concerns with raising pupils' self-esteem and emotional literacy or building their resilience and emotional well-being are based on something new, what you can call a diminished concept of our children. This is something different and dangerous, and although it seems to be compassionate, it is really very manipulative. As a history teacher remarked: "Something has changed when pupils want to know more about themselves than the world."



LEARNING CURVE: Are we controlling feelings or boosting esteem?

PHILLIP KARNAVAS

BUILDING self-esteem and nurturing emotional wellbeing neither replace the curriculum nor prevent learning – they enable better access to both.

While I agree that caring must not substitute for learning, caring about children is a vital precondition for learning.

It does not imply a "diminished concept" of, nor necessarily produce "dependency" in, children. They help overcome complex barriers to learning, empowering and motivating children to enjoy and achieve.

None of these things is about controlling children; rather they enable children to better control their learning.

Moreover, a better understanding of "self" is not the promotion of solipsism. It better equips learners for the acquisition of knowledge and understanding.

My school successfully operates many of the things Mr Hayes attacks and I make no apology for it. Rather than pay £18.99 for his book, I would donate it to Barnados and live with the guilt caused by knowing Mr Hayes feels I have contributed to the "downsizing of children's potential".

JOIN THE DEBATE: Listen to the debate and share your opinion. Email: yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk. Write: The Editor, Yourswale, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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Here's something to celebrate

FESTIVALS and street entertainment are safe in the district despite the recession, says Canterbury council.

At a recent meeting to plan the 2009 Herne Bay Festival, there was no talk of cutbacks or cancellations, despite fears that non-essentials could be axed in favour of protecting services.

A council official said: "From the ideas that were being discussed at the meeting there was no hint that anything would be scaled back this year."

That will come as welcome news to businesses which benefit from the visitors who flock to the district's festivals and events.

Herne Bay Festival organisers hope to see even more organisations getting involved this year. Co-ordinator Cassy Fry said: "The festival is a showcase for the town, demonstrating how much is already going on in Herne Bay and raising the profile of the groups involved."

The 2009 festival will run from August 22-30. To get involved, phone Ms Fry on 01227 862201 or email cassy.fry@canterbury.gov.uk.

The Whitstable Oyster Festival is expected to remain at full strength, too.

To catch a glimpse of last year's festival, visit www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Herne Bay Festival'.

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Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON



A QUIET DRINK: But things tend to get noisier in the city between 11pm and 3am – to residents' annoyance

Economy drives city noise action off the agenda

MOVES to ease transport tensions between Canterbury residents and city visitors in search of a good night out have stalled due to the credit crunch.

The council has noted that a key challenge in solving the dilemma between a good night's sleep and a night on the tiles is the lack of reliable transport to get people away from residential areas quickly, cheaply and quietly, with minimal disturbance to householders.

The city centre development action plan, a document seeking to map out the sensitive development of Canterbury's night-time economy, recommended "that public transport away from the city centre during the evenings, especially at weekends, should be improved".

With this in mind, the council has been investigating transport options, but the recession has impacted on plans.

Ideas included subsidised late-night coaches aimed at students – a feature of other university cities such as York – which will pick up from the city centre and take revellers back to campus and away from residential areas.

A Unihopper service, laid on by Stagecoach, already runs from Christ Church University,

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

but this does not operate past 11pm due to a lack of drivers, so misses the crucial period between 11pm and 3am when pubs, bars and clubs close. This leaves late-night drinkers with no choice but to attempt to hire a cab or walk home, which can lead to disturbance.

Struggling taxi firms have also baulked at the idea of providing subsidised late night services. The credit crunch has hit many hard as people go out less and use cheaper forms of transport to get home, and most firms say they are in no position to help at the moment.

Nightclubs have also cited the downturn as a major factor in their reluctance to provide investment in other transport options.

The situation is exacerbated by the fact that the last train to London and the Medway towns leaves Canterbury East at 11.18pm on weekdays, and at 11.47pm on Saturdays.

The council has also introduced saturation areas to certain roads in the city centre to prevent any more licensed venues opening.

The police have also introduced measures to curb disturbance, most recently the city centre dispersal zone which finished earlier this month.

Slick moves to boost breast cancer funds

STUDENTS are in pole position for a fundraising drive in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness next week.

The University of Kent Pole Fitness Society has a week of events planned and the aim is to raise £3,000 for the charity. President Justine Millard said: "Next Wednesday at The Venue nightclub we will putting on demonstrations and running competitions." Other events will run throughout the week, starting from Monday. To see dancers in action, visit www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'pole'.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Panto goes out on a high

MARLOWE Theatre staff are celebrating after a record-breaking 81,425 people watched *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The panto, which starred ex-EastEnders Emma Barton and TV presenter Stephen Mulhern, ended its run on Sunday after 91 performances and was the last to be staged at the theatre before its closure in March.

The previous record had been set by another production of *Snow White* in 2003/04, when there were 89 performances and 74,626 people.

Theatre director Mark Everett said: "This fantastic result shows that high-quality, feel-good entertainment will always attract people, whatever the economic conditions."

The Marlowe rebuild is expected to take two years. The next panto, *Peter Pan*, will be staged in a big top theatre at Kingsmead. Tickets are already on sale and more than 10,000 seats have been sold or reserved.

Have you seen this man?



MISSING: Paul Day

CONCERNS are growing for a Whitstable man last spotted on Tankerton Slopes on Thursday.

Paul Day, 44, is 6ft 2in, of stocky build and with short greying hair. He was wearing green trousers, a short black coat and brown walking boots.

Anyone with information should contact the police on 01622 690690.

Land of hope for workers

JOBS at furniture retailer Land of Leather's Wincheap branch could be saved despite the company slumping into administration.

Administrators have been called in to help keep some of the stores across the UK alive, but have already started shutting 33 outlets.

However, it is hoped a number of key stores in Kent will be able to be sold as a going concern. They are believed to include the Canterbury, Gillingham, Maidstone and Orpington branches.

It is just the latest big high street name to be hit by the recession.

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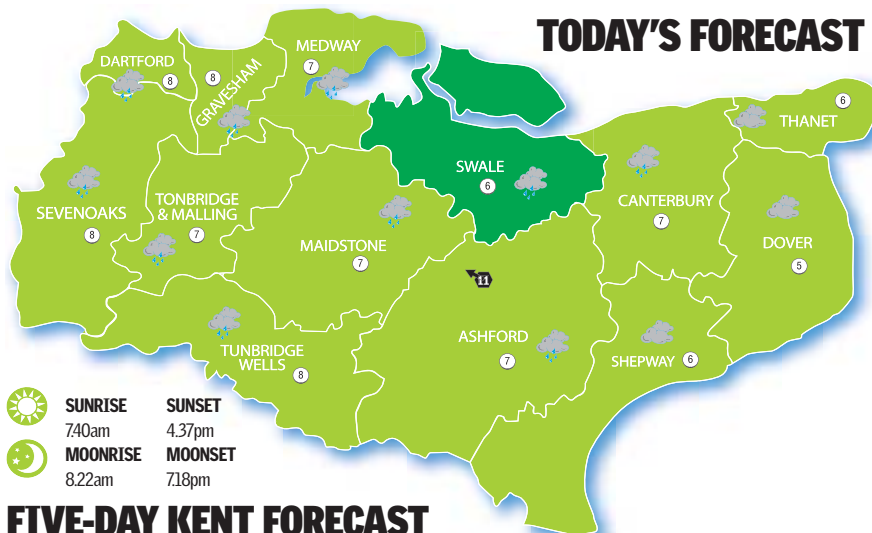
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SUNRISE 7:40am
SUNSET 4:37pm
MOONRISE 8:22am
MOONSET 7:18pm

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	Gravesend	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C
Canterbury	7°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	Maidstone	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C
Chatham	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C	Ramsgate	7°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	5°C
Dartford	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	Rochester	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C
Dover	7°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	Sevenoaks	6°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	5°C
Faversham	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C
Folkestone	7°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	Tonbridge	7°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C
Gillingham	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C	Tun Wells	7°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	3:51pm	5.7m
	Sunday	4:29pm	5.6m
Dover	Saturday	1:50pm	6.2m
	Sunday	2:26pm	6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:55pm	7.4m
	Sunday	2:36pm	7.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:20pm	4.8m
	Sunday	2:56pm	4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:41pm	5.5m
	Sunday	4:18pm	5.3m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:34pm	5.0m
	Sunday	4:10pm	5.0m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	4°C	Madrid	8°C
Athens	15°C	New York	-5°C
Barcelona	11°C	Paris	4°C
Beijing	2°C	Rome	11°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	25°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	7°C	Tokyo	9°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	3°C
Hong Kong	13°C	Warsaw	3°C
Las Palmas	18°C	Wellington	24°C



SPONSOR: Demelza is looking for fundraising runners

A good reason to put your marathon running shoes on

DEMEZLA House children's hospice is looking for people intending to run the London Marathon to raise funds for its vital work.

Staff will offer runners a sponsor pack, including a running vest, and invite them to a reception at the hospice following the marathon to show where the hard-earned sponsor money is being spent and how it is helping to make the lives of children with terminal conditions better.

Clare Emmett, marathon co-ordinator at Demelza, said: "The support that we have received over the last couple of years from the London Marathon runners has been amazing. Here's to a bigger and better 2009."

The hospice near Sittingbourne offers assistance to terminally ill children and their families and has facilities to house people on site, as well as visit them at home.

If you are interested in joining the hospice's team then contact Clare Emmett in the fundraising department on 01795 845204 or email clare.emmett@demelza.org.uk.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

TIM LUCKHURST



Q Tell us about yourself.

A I'm 45, happily married with four children and support Partick Thistle and Chelsea football clubs. I entered the world of journalism, which had always been my ambition, in 1988.

Q Can you tell us about your career in journalism?

A I'm a former editor of The Scotsman. I began my career on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme for which I produced, edited and reported from the UK and abroad. I covered the Romanian Revolution and the First Gulf War for BBC Radio and reported on the liberation of Kosovo and the fall of Slobodan Milosevic for the Scotsman. I was the BBC's Washington producer during the first year of the Clinton presidency and returned to the UK to become a senior member of the team that designed and launched BBC Radio Five Live. I won two Sony Radio Awards for news broadcasting and I write about topics including politics, media and motorcycling for publications including the Guardian, Independent, Times, Toronto Globe and Mail, Los Angeles Times and The New Republic.

Q How different is journalism now to 'traditional' journalism?

A I think the best journalism available today is better than anything before, however it is submerged in a sea of dross. There are thousands of blogs and magazines available now but

not enough investigative and analytical journalism. We need more, better trained journalists.

Q How strong is the journalism course offered by the University of Kent?

A The National Council for the Training of Journalists says our course 'sets the benchmark for others to follow' and we feel it's one of the best in Britain if not the world. We're not being arrogant, none of the lecturers would have given up working in real newsrooms for a second-rate course. We believe we are producing high standards of training and the number and quality of applications we receive from across the globe is testament to that. Next year's intake includes candidates from as far as Hong Kong and as close as Medway and that's what we want. A great newsroom is made up of different people from different backgrounds coming together and learning from each other.

Q What skills are needed to become a good journalist?

A A first-rate mind to investigate and analyse, a healthy disregard for authority and a complete commitment to democracy and the freedom of information. Journalists also have to be entertaining and have a sense of humour.

Q What are the main misconceptions of journalists?

A The worst public misconception is that journalists are trouble makers who report trivia.

Journalism at its best is a vital service to democracy which enables readers to make independent choices and hold power to account.

Q How do you foresee the world of journalism changing in the next ten years?

A The digital world offers huge possibilities. We teach students online, video and text journalism. The main challenge to the industry is how to pay for good journalism across these digital formats. Websites cannot afford to pay for good foreign correspondents or investigative journalists, whereas traditional newspapers can. When the digital world is able to find an economic model for this I think the industry will change.

Q What do you think makes a good story?

A A good story is often something which people do not expect, did not know was going to happen or something really important. 'Man bites dog' is much better than 'dog bites man'. At the same time a story which is really important and something people do not expect, for example someone in a position of authority betraying the public trust. Journalists need to find out what other people do not want other people to know.

Q Anything you'd like to add?

A Anyone interested in the BA in journalism can visit www.centreforjournalism.co.uk or come along to the Chatham Maritime campus.

Q&A

The internationally experienced journalist and professor at the University of Kent spoke to **Simon Robinson** about the course it offers and the state of the media industry in the online age.

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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The sky's the limit for your special one

BY JON COATES

WE HAVE found the ultimate present for your Valentine – a helicopter lesson.

Kent is lucky enough to have one of the best helicopter pilot training schools in the UK.

AV8 Helicopters, at Rochester Airport, offers introductory flying lessons so you can experience the thrill of taking control of a helicopter.

So if you're looking to sweep your Valentine off their feet, this could be the answer. I went along to Rochester Airport this week for a 30-minute introductory flight to find out more.

Experiencing a mix of excitement and trepidation, I was introduced to my instructor Richard Cooke, 61, and immediately relieved to find myself in safe hands.

He introduced me to the Robinson R22 helicopter we would be going up in and I was stunned by how small it was.

This is the most popular aircraft for training pilots as it is very light and therefore sensitive to the touch.

Richard first explained the three flying controls – the cyclic stick used to speed up, slow down and go left or right, the collective lever used to make the craft rise or fall and two foot pedals used to control the tail rotor.

For the trial flight you only take control of the cyclic stick in flight, but it's good to understand the basics before taking off.

Richard stressed how sensitive the stick is and explained where we would be flying and that once we were levelled out and settled in to a cruise the controls would be passed to me.

The Robinson R22 has a perspex canopy (the



MIND BLOWING: Jon Coates takes to the sky in a truly unforgettable experience flying a helicopter

front windscreen) stretching down to near your feet, which gives an incredible view and makes you feel like you're floating on air.

It was an amazing feeling just lifting off with the whole of Medway stretching in front of me as we headed towards Leeds Castle. Then after just a few minutes I gripped the control stick and was flying.

Despite the safety warnings I immediately sent us veering off to the right. But Richard soon corrected me and I managed to keep a straight course, which is the aim of the introductory lesson. As I relaxed and my confidence grew I was able to look around and take in the stunning views, having been blessed with clear blue skies on a rare sunny winter day.

The feeling of keeping it straight and level, and speeding up to make small alterations in direction to the left or right was brilliant.

AV8 run 20-minute introductory flights for £130 plus VAT, 30-minute flights for £147.50 plus VAT and hour flights for £255 plus VAT, which are perfect gifts or birthday presents.

After the trial flight if you're as hooked as me then you need a minimum of 45 hours of lessons to get your private pilot's licence, at a cost of £255 plus VAT per hour.

They also offer flights in executive helicopters over London and Hellfire Corner in Kent for £150 per person plus VAT.

• For details call AV8 on 01634 672288, email info@av8helicopters.co.uk or see www.av8helicopters.co.uk.



Finishing school to help motivate our youngsters

TROUBLESOME teenagers are being invited to clean up their act by attending a modern-day version of a finishing school.

Shy youngsters and those with low self-esteem have also taken part in the Brand You Experience, which aims to help school leavers prepare for working life through a series of motivational workshops.

The scheme, which started in Dover last year and is now being extended to Maidstone, is a joint initiative between Kent County Council and mentoring and coaching organisation Beyond Excellence.

Project leader Dean Martin said: "Some of the schools used the course as a means of rewarding pupils who weren't troublemakers but who rarely shined in the classroom. But then we had some who were bouncing off the walls and others who had very low opinions of themselves and perhaps weren't receiving the right support at home."

The next Brand You Experience course runs for five days from Monday, February 16, at Bradbourne House, East Malling, Maidstone. Each session runs from 9.30am until 3.30pm daily, and Mr Martin is encouraging potential employers to visit and offer their support to the youngsters.

He said: "We have found from talking to young people and employers that they are often poles apart in what they expect from each other."

For more details on the scheme call Mr Martin on 01843 844939.

Picture: SARAH STANTON/AV8



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Anglers unite to tackle 'outrageous' EU scheme

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

EU PLANS to limit the amount of fish amateur anglers can catch will harm the shops and businesses that rely on the popular hobby, say opponents.

Boat charter companies, tackle shops and other businesses could suffer unless the European Union withdraws what many insiders believe is an unfair ruling for recreational fishermen in the UK.

The plans are aimed at clamping down on Continental fishermen who use large nets to gather fish to feed their families.

If the EU does not back down, skippers who take tourists on sea-angling trips off Kent's coast and those who fish from piers will have to abide by the same quota rules as commercial fishermen throughout Europe.

Kent Charter Fishing owner Dave Hancock said: "This could slaughter our business, but



CAUGHT OUT: UK anglers are upset at planned quotas

we may have no choice but to deal with it.

"It would make life very difficult and mean we would have to fish for different species and record every catch, which would be a big hassle. If you put our catches beside the amount caught by commercial fishermen, the numbers are insignificant. It doesn't seem fair. We want things to stay the way they are."

Kent MEP Daniel Hannan, who is a member of the European Parliament's committee on fisheries, said: "It's outrageous that they

are extending this policy to recreational anglers. When large-scale commercial fishing in places such as Margate dried up, people started taking tourists out on angling trips on boats instead.

"For them to have to register their catch is preposterous. But I think there's a reasonable chance of stopping this going through. I'm fairly confident we'll be able to fix it."

About 1.4 million people enjoy sea fishing off Britain, creating about 20,000 jobs in the process. The newly-formed Angling Trust has promised to fight the new proposals all the way and is encouraging recreational fishermen to contact their MEPs.

Member Leon Roskilly said: "We would like the two sectors [commercial and recreational] to be regulated differently and more appropriately, because if this goes through it will have a hell of an impact."

"We're having meetings with Defra and the European Anglers' Alliance. There's been a furore over this - whoever came up with this regulation can't have imagined they would receive such a reaction."

Police frustration at violent crime statistical error

A LEADING Kent police officer has voiced "frustration" over the force's misreporting of serious violent crimes in the county.

Kent Police were among 18 forces that had incorrectly counted the numbers of the most serious offences such as murder and grievous bodily harm (GBH) due to a change in Home Office guidance.

The county constabulary was forced to suspend serious violent offences statistics from its crime figures for the third quarter of 2008.

Acting Assistant Chief Constable Peter West said: "It is frustrating, in so much as when there are new crime recording and differences introduced and the guidance that goes with it, it takes a period of settling down."

"We have suspended our figures because of applying the wrong interpretation to the guidelines, but we will know the figures before the end of the financial year," Mr West added.

"Serious violent crime was 6.3 per cent of our total - 1,277 out of 20,204 - and when we have gone through every one with the most recent guidance, every indication is that the figure will fall."

He said the changes did not alter the fact that violent crime in the county was falling. Kent showed a nine per cent reduction in total violent crime.

Innovative midwives rewarded by reduction in caesarean rates

MIDWIVES in Kent have developed an idea that has seen caesarean section rates drop by five per cent.

Concerns have been raised that caesarean rates, which had doubled in 10 years, are too high and the NHS has been working to ensure more women have normal births.

Sarah Gregson, a consultant midwife for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, entered her team into the Royal College of

Midwives (RCM) annual awards in the innovation category.

They arranged for the midwife caring for a woman in labour to fill in a form every hour noting information such as changes of position and keeping the woman upright. Midwives also encourage different support strategies, such as using water.

And their work, which has cut caesarean rates, was placed in the UK top three at a ceremony at the Royal Garden Hotel in London.

The audit tool, devised in 2003 by a group of midwives led by Hilary Thomas at Pembury Hospital, was used again during 2007-08.

Mrs Gregson said: "C-section rates have doubled across the UK but we have not been saving more mothers or babies because of it."

"Maternity services are looking at how we can increase normal births because there are health benefits for both mother and child."

Research shows that women who give birth normally are more likely to breast feed, which is best for the newborn. During the second trial of the audit, caesarean rates dropped by two per cent overall from 26 per cent of births in 2007 to 23.4 per cent in 2008.

Mrs Gregson said that while C-sections were important for women experiencing serious complications or with medical conditions, many were being carried out unnecessarily.

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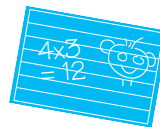
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HOUSE POINTS: Donna Wells and Hayley Richardson of Demelza accept the cheque from Borden Grammar pupils

Grammar lads take initiative for Demelza

■ BY NICK AMES

BORDEN Grammar School pupils have presented a cheque for £415 to Demelza House children's hospice.

The youngest pupils at the school ran a fair to raise money for the Bobbing-based children's hospice in December.

Setting up stalls they had devised and organised, the year seven students had the gym buzzing with activity.

They invited parents, friends and staff to open their purses and wallets and spend on an array of stalls, games and raffles.

Sixth-formers also ran their own stall – a human fruit machine – to raise money for a World Challenge expedition to Africa next year.

Design technology teacher Keith Groom,

who oversaw the fair, said he was delighted at the initiative shown by pupils and the enthusiasm they brought to the project. The PFA provided refreshments.

The money raised will go towards providing respite care for children and their families. Demelza House is one of the most respected charities in the UK and runs an eight-bed hospice on the outskirts of Sittingbourne providing respite, symptom control, end-of-life care and bereavement support.

More than 300 children and their families have benefited from facilities that include a multi-sensory room, soft play, whirlpool bath, and an inclusion zone for young adults.

The care team, led by specialist palliative care nurses, make the most of every moment a child spends at Demelza House.

The hospice offers a comprehensive service of support using a bereavement suite, known as the Hop Garden, which enables a family to let go and say goodbye at their own pace.

BREAK TIME

Hand-picked book for every student

STUDENTS at Sittingbourne Community College have been losing themselves in literature through a new scheme.

As part of National Year of Reading in 2008, the college used its own funding to buy every student, from year eight to ten inclusive, their own book.

Currently, the Government issues all year seven students with a book to encourage reading.

But the college decided that all students, irrespective of age, should be given the same opportunity.

The college spent more than £7,000 hand-picking literature, so that every student could have their own book.

Jackie Smith, a teaching assistant in the English department, said: "Although hand-picking the books was time consuming, we were aware of the fact that students' abilities vary broadly across year groups and

that some are less interested in reading.

"So purchasing age-appropriate literature that would be of interest to students was extremely important."

The books included fiction and non-fiction, plus contemporary titles as well as classics. The impact of the scheme has been more than anyone could have hoped for.

Headteacher Alan Barham added: "It is important for us to encourage students to enjoy literacy and reading in general.

"Not all students will have access to a vast range of books outside of the college and this enables them to be equal with their peers and give every child the same opportunity.

"This not only assists with vocabulary and spelling, which can positively influence their college work, but can also be a great form of escapism and can improve creativity and imagination."

Museum's Victorian schoolroom display

A REPLICA schoolroom from the Victorian era is one of the exhibits on display at Faversham Museum.

It contains maps, an antique clock and material pupils would have used more than 100 years ago.

These include writing slates rather books

and a desk with a folding top.

The items have been donated by schools across Swale to give today's pupils the chance to see what schooling was like for their ancestors.

For a look around the recreated 19th century school, visit www.yourkenttv.co.uk.



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yourswareblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Swale...

Why we should wrap TV star Brian Cant up in cotton wool

FIRST Oliver Postgate and now Tony Hart. For those 30-some-things weaned on a diet of BBC children's TV of the Seventies and early Eighties, these are dark times indeed.

There is perhaps nothing more likely to bring home to you that youth has truly passed you by and you're entering an older generation, than when entertainers from your childhood start shuffling off this mortal coil.

It was bad enough when, quite recently, I learned the chap who played Timothy Clappole in Rentaghost had died years earlier. Timothy Clappole? Dead? What is the world coming to?

But while Oliver Postgate's creations such as Bagpuss and Ivor the Engine will live on, Tony Hart's death was particularly sad.

Postgate was always a man whose fame grew by his name appearing in the credits of so

many programmes. His face was anonymous.

But for many years, Hart was the embodiment of children's telly. He would occupy a slot prior to Grange Hill or Blue Peter and dazzle us with his gentle artistic talents.

A huge city skyline at night was always a speciality – created on a huge black canvas on the floor; it only becoming apparent what he was creating as a camera staring down from the ceiling brought it to life.

But he was more than that. He was a kindly old uncle; a figure with authority and a sense of fun but with none of the overt 'silliness' which pervades the schedules for youngsters today.

I can remember quite clearly joining an art club at infant school as they promised to send work off to the BBC to try and appear in Hart's The Gallery. The Gallery was perhaps the earliest form of reality TV. As muzak played in the background the camera simply panned 'art' submitted by school children up and down the land. I once met someone who had indeed been fortunate enough to have their work displayed

during this section of the show and I was left in awe.

But Hart did not work alone ploughing a lonely furrow as a key component of children's television. Oh no, he had help. There was Morph. A little brown plasticine figure who lived in Hart's art box – the grandfather to Wallace and Gromit and a creation of future Oscar-winner Nick Park. I assume he, Morph that is, still lives on and is currently in mourning for Hart. Cripes, if he still lives in that box I hope someone knows and can let him out for a stretch of his legs, otherwise we could face another tragedy.

In the meantime we must treasure those that remain. Mrs McCluskey from Grange Hill take good care of yourself. Brian Cant, keep safe and warm. Johnny Ball – think of a big number and live the equivalent in years.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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TALK TIME

KERRY DOUGAN

Meet the lady behind the counter at Sweet Scene in Faversham – a store chock full of traditional confectionary and the only one of its kind in Swale.



What sort of people come here?

We have people of a certain age come in and they will order a 'quarter' – actually a quarter of a pound – of their favourites such as bon bons or milk gums. But we have school children coming in as well.

So it's not just nostalgia for older people?

Oh no, not at all. There is an element of that, of course, but it is a thriving business – we have a good position here close to the centre of Faversham and people make frequent stops. We get a lot of regular customers.

What do the younger children like to buy?

The kids know of the varieties we sell through their parents and they are always ready to try something new. They have very distinctive likes and dislikes. Some love liquorice for instance while others hate it. Toffee crumble – which is actually crumbled up Twix bars – is popular with young people.

And the older customers?

Most likely stuff that takes them back to their youth.

Does the shop offer anything else?

Yes – we organise trips to the theatres in the West End by coach which are very popular. Right now we are booking tickets to hits such as The Lion King and Billy Elliot.

YOUR LETTERS

We just need to get people to listen

As chairman of the parish council in the small rural village of Bapchild, it's certainly not an uncommonly held view point that public opinion is swiftly dispatched off to the darkest corners of the local authority where it lurks forever more in solitude.

Most residents are so disillusioned they would rather give up at the first fence than put up any opposition to defend their quality of life.

However, I have to believe it is possible to effect change; otherwise there would be little point in continuing in my role. But recent events are starting to take their toll and it is increasingly difficult to persuade residents to participate in consultations when on the face of it, success is all but unattainable.

Just recently the renewal of a planning application came before us, which residents had been fairly vocal about for some time. Having discussed this with residents again, the parish council decided to object, as did the neighbouring parish council and a number of residents. Our objection duly listed our concerns and made mention of the applicant's track record in breaking the terms of the previous agreement. Unfortunately, we were not successful and the application was approved regardless. Just three days later the applicant was caught breaking the terms of their agreement once again.

Now, obviously, I don't expect the decision to go our way with



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every application we object to, or support for that matter. What I do find rather depressing is the lack of sensible debate or any debate that generally occurs with applications that I have been involved with. Now don't get me

wrong I have been in attendance when discussions lasted so long I found it hard to maintain the will to live. However as soon I'm called to speak, the room goes very quiet indeed. I'm not sure whether I frighten them or bore

them to death, but in any event the outcome is always the same.

Then we have the mystery of the missing responses to applications, missing consultation documents and missing invitations to committee hearings. Believe me an awful lot of documents somehow manage to go missing and I'm only speaking about one parish council.

Most applications we deal with are fairly trivial in the grand scheme of things, but not to those concerned or affected by the outcome. Granted we not going to change the world, but in some small way we can make life more bearable, but only if someone actually starts listening.

Andy Hudson
Chairman, Bapchild parish council



We always knew there'd be floods

The fear of flooding across much of Swale is nothing new. Nor is it something that will surprise many of us.

We live by the coast. We live in a predominantly flat area. We all know what happened in the 50s.

But the facts are, we haven't had a serious incident for nearly 50 years. And, in truth, most areas are subject to some flood-

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ing when rains fall and rivers rise. That's life. And that's rural living. I'm not clear what continued debate will provide.

Hugh Smith
Faversham

Woolies market plan a great idea for town

The suggestion the redundant Woolworths stores which occupy prominent positions in town centres should be converted into markets is an excellent one.

This would enable small traders to have a permanent place in the high streets of major towns and build up their customer base.

It would also be of great benefit to the local economy as the most likely users of such facilities would all come from the immediate area.

A range of new stalls would be an attraction to shoppers as well.

The debate about what to do with the Woolworths sites which remain unused should end now and this excellent suggestion taken up.

Brian Murrell
By email

Club need to use run up to season well

With spring set to come in a month or so it's about time Kent Cricket Club started to build for the season. Following last year's relegation

there is a priority to bring in some top class players? The batting is OK but the bowling could do with strengthening.

The loss of Yasir Arafat is a grave blow and with the distinct possibility either Amjad Khan or Robbie Joseph – or both – could be involved in the England set up, resources look a little slim to say the least.

So let's see some good signings – above all of players who are not just after a quick payday.

Philip Goodwin
By email



Gurkha fight should be settled by now

The news Joanna Lumley is yet again backing the Gurkhas in their bid to remain in this country without restrictions is obviously good.

But why does she need to keep fighting this issue?

It should have been settled ages ago and these brave men given the same rights as everybody else who can come here.

They contribute far more to this country than any number of economic migrants and the

Government should be ashamed of the way it is dragging its feet.

Lucy Morgan
By email

Cash incentive a big fat sign of greed

It is ridiculous fat people are being given a cash incentive to slim – why don't they just do it because of a sense of self respect?

They would be healthier and better off as they obviously would not be buying as much food to scoff.

Robert Mountjoy
By email

Banks didn't deserve the bail out money

The credit crunch has seen a number of unwelcome side issues, one of these is the vast sums of money being paid to bail out banks.

It is pure nonsense as all they can then offer is to lend it back to the taxpayers who forked out in the first place at added interest rates to pay their own wages.

Surely the best option would have been for the Government to offer tax breaks and rebates to people in work.

Why give it to the banks? They caused the problem in the first place.

Jerry Purnell
By email

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WTN Tickets to the London Stitch and Creative Crafts show



THE London Stitch & Creative Crafts Show comes back to London ExCeL on Thursday, February 26 to Saturday, February 28. With easy access from all major and local routes and excellent general facilities, it's no wonder this show is now a firm favourite with creative craft lovers in and around the capital.

There will be a host of crafting celebrities to entertain, educate and pass on their skills and knowledge over the three days. Stephanie Weightman, from Ideal World and Create & Craft TV and Debbi Moore, expert crafting presenter, will both be running a programme of workshops. Joan Gordon, sewing and craft designer with over 25 years experience, will be hosting a Sewing Clinic for those wishing to pick up all the tricks of the trade and to answer all your sewing queries. Also from Create & Craft TV, Wendie Rhodes will be hosting her highly popular series of free demon-

stration lectures covering a huge range of topics.

The world of Guilds and Associations will be represented by The Embroiderers' Guild, The Guild of Silk Painters (Essex branch), Middlesex Federation of Women's Institutes and the Tower Hamlets Idea Store of Learning who will all be giving demonstrations and displays of their members' activities.

Marlene Carr, the Show Manager for this event says: "The London Stitch & Creative Crafts Show is a great day out for both the experienced and the beginner crafter. The wide range of exhibitors offer visitors every conceivable type of crafting product, demonstrations and workshops and with the excellent London ExCeL, we really will have something for everyone at this superb show."

KOS Media Publishing has 10 pairs of tickets to this great event to giveaway.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to The London Stitch Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. Closing date is February 19, 2009.

Question: When is the London Stitch and Craft show?

No purchase necessary.

For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

CRAFTY EXHIBITION: TV's Create & Craft Wendy Rhodes (left) will be at the event (above) being held at London ExCeL

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Book Club starting Wednesday 28th January

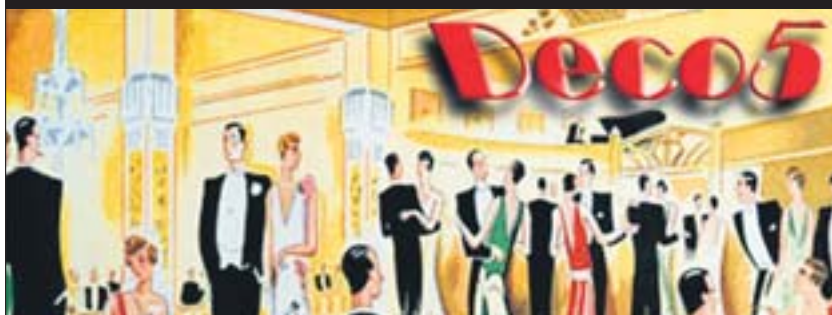
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The Star attraction appeals to everyone

■ The Star

THIS Watling Street venue in Gillingham is now one of the most popular venues in the whole of Medway.

A year ago the venue underwent a massive refurbishment, changing it from an unremarkable place to a modern up to date and family friendly venue offering a wide range of food and drink as well as a number of other attractions. These include a quiz night on Tuesdays, a free bottle of wine per table of four on Wednesdays and the chance to jam onstage with a live band on Fridays.

Saturdays see one of the best nights of live music anywhere in the area with a full list

of bands at www.myspace.com.thestargillingham.

Monday to Thursday sees happy hour lasting from 5pm to 7pm when after work drinks are extremely popular.

Quality food is available with Sunday roast particularly good. The dishes come with freshly seasoned vegetables, home made Yorkshire puddings and are served with gravy and a choice of sauces.

Apple crumble drizzled in custard is an ever popular dessert.

Managers Gareth Williams and Stephanie Bisset have received excellent feedback since they took over, with a loyal customer base returning time and time again.

The pub is open Sunday to Thursday from noon until 11pm and on Friday and Saturday from noon until 1am.



CHEF RECOMMENDS

The Star

Breaded chicken breast goujons with crispy salad and dips to start. Then fresh Sunday Roast, with freshly seasoned vegetables, homemade Yorkshire puddings, slow cooked joint of beef. Followed by a fresh apple and sultana pie. Telephone: 01634 851175.

Martins

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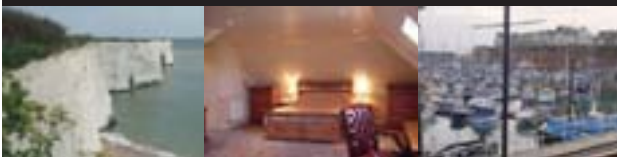
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BIG NAMES: Helen Ryan and Edward Fox are coming to Canterbury for four days of classic comedy at the Marlowe Theatre

Upper crust of comedy

Big screen stars act out blue blood adversity on stage

LLOYD GEORGE KNEW MY FATHER

Tuesday to Saturday, February 3-7
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

THE British aristocracy stands firm in the face of adversity in comedy classic, Lloyd George Knew My Father.

Film, television and stage legend Edward Fox and distinguished actress Helen Ryan star in William Douglas Home's play, which tells the tale of an eccentric couple whose stately home is threatened by progress. Described as a 'hilarious drawing room comedy', this hugely entertaining production features two great British stars at their best.

The Boothroyd family are facing disaster. It has been announced that a dual carriageway is to be built and the new road will run straight through the grounds of historic

Boothroyd Hall, which welcomed Charles the First as a guest the night before the Battle of Edgehill.

The resolute Lady Boothroyd declares she will kill herself the moment the bulldozers begin their destructive work, but will anyone be able to change her mind?

A member of the highly regarded Fox acting dynasty, Edward has starred in some of film and TV's most notable productions. He appeared alongside Michael Caine, Robert Redford and Sir Laurence Olivier in the 1977 film A Bridge Too Far and also had a role in the Oscar-winning Gandhi.

This is not his first foray into the world of the upper crust – Fox has even portrayed royalty, playing King Edward VIII in the popular 1980 mini-series, Edward and Mrs Simpson, for which he won a BAFTA. But he has also played characters from the other end of the social spectrum, such as the dignified butler Lane in a 2002 film version of Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being

Earnest, starring Colin Firth and Rupert Everett.

Helen Ryan has made many stage and radio appearances and on screen she has acted in TV series as diverse as Green Wing and Midsomer Murders. Her film credits include Confetti and the Oscar nominated classic The Elephant Man.

The play's author was the brother of Sir Alec Douglas Home, who became Prime Minister in 1964. William Douglas Home was an aristocrat who began writing plays as a child, studied at RADA and went on to become a successful writer and dramatist. He served as an officer in the Second World War, but was stripped of his rank and sentenced to a year's hard labour after refusing to bomb Le Havre in France, on the grounds the civilians had not been evacuated.

Performances will be at 7.30pm daily with 2.30pm matinees on Thursday and Saturday. Tickets are priced from £12.50 to £23.50. Book at www.marlowetheatre.com or call the box office on 01227 787787.

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THE UGLY DUCKLING

Saturday, January 31
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

THE classic story of The Ugly Duckling is performed in enchanting style by Travelling Light.

Hans Christian Andersen's much-loved tale follows the adventures of a little duckling who emerges from his egg to find he is different from his brothers and sisters.

While they are fluffy, yellow and cute, the Ugly Duckling is scruffy, clumsy and stands out from the rest,

though his mother loves him just the same. Determined to find out where he truly belongs, he sets out on an epic journey to discover himself.

Internationally acclaimed Travelling Light has been producing high quality shows for young people for 23 years and started out touring schools in the Bristol area.

As the company's reputation increased, they began touring nationally and now about half of its performances are given in theatres to family audiences.

The company has also taken performances abroad, to countries such as Romania and Korea.

The one-hour show will be performed at 11.30am and 2pm. Tickets cost £7 each or £30 for a Friends and Family ticket for five people.

Book at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 769075.



Picture: BRIAN JACKSON

LOUNGE ON THE FARM TASTER

Thursday and Friday, January 29-30
the Farmhouse, Canterbury

TWO outstanding acts will be performing at Lounge On The Farm's Canterbury venue, to whet the appetite for this year's festival.

Early bird tickets for the three-day musical extravaganza, taking place in July, go on sale on Sunday. To celebrate, The Farmhouse in Dover Street welcomes two very different artists this week.

On Thursday, Scott H Biram (pictured) will be demonstrating why he calls himself the Dirty Old One Man Band, giving traditional

one-man blues a raucous modern twist. The Canterbury audience is lucky to be seeing the American at all – in April 2003 he was hit head-on by a truck at 75mph. But he still managed to perform just one month later, despite breaking both legs, a foot and an arm and losing 1ft of lower intestine.

On Friday, folk troubadour Eugene McGuinness, a 22-year-old Irish/Londoner from Liverpool, will invoke the spirit of days gone by with his balladeering. He straddles genres from post-punk to skiffle beats and cites Shane MacGowan as one of his major influences.

Tickets to both concerts cost £5. For details visit www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk.

ROBB JOHNSON

Friday, January 30
Orange Street Music Venue, Canterbury

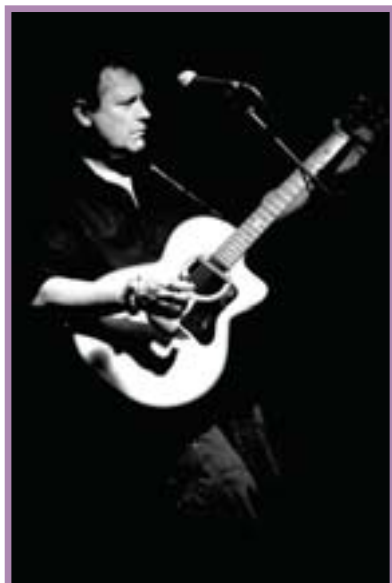
TWILIGHT Folk Club presents a concert by acclaimed singer-songwriter Robb Johnson.

Described by critics as "the UK's most consistently strong songwriter" and "creator of some of the most potent songs of the last decade", Johnson is a performer not to be missed. He plays extensively in Europe, has toured Britain supporting Chumbawamba and has worked in the US with David Rovics.

Also on the bill is Dronhe who first encountered the hurdy gurdy in 1968. He draws on old influences and uses instruments associated with European music, to create music that is essentially contemporary English.

Relig Oran blends the African Kalimba, percussion, fiddle and bouzouki with the music of England, Ireland and Brittany, and the band adds its own contemporary twist. Various described as 'prog-folk' and 'goth-folk', they maintain a respect for the tradition and true to the spirit of the music.

The gig is at 8pm, tickets are £5. See www.orangestreetmusic.com or call 01227 760801.



SWALE LEISURE

Enjoy a sweet evening out at The Lion King

MILLIONS of people around the world have enjoyed hit musical The Lion King, with its unforgettable songs.

Sweet Scene Theatre Trips in Faversham is running a trip to see the lavish stage version of Disney's popular film in London on February 4. The coach leaves Faversham at 4.45pm and tickets cost £50. For details visit the sweet shop in Preston Street or call 01795 535293.

Talented fiddler to pay a visit to folk club night

ACCLAIMED Geordie fiddler Tom McConville will be visiting Faversham Folk Club next week.

He has been nominated for Musician of the Year at this year's BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. The concert will be at the Chimney Boy, Preston Street, at 8.30pm. Tickets cost £6 for club members and £7 for non-members. For more details see www.favershamfolkclub.net.

Choir raise their voices with some funky tunes

THE uplifting sound of the London Community Gospel Choir can be heard at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury.

Expect a rousing mix of swing-beat, R'n'B and gospel, all given some added funky flair, by the choir that has performed at Live 8 and Glastonbury.

The show is at 7.30pm on Thursday, tickets cost £20/£18. Book at www.marlowetheatre.com or call 01227 787787.

Calling all twitchers, trust needs your help

BIRDWATCHERS are being asked to help the British Trust for Ornithology.

Anyone who has access to a garden and can identify common garden birds is invited to contribute to the trust's research. They need volunteers to take part in its year-round Garden BirdWatch survey, helping to monitor bird populations in a systematic way. For details call 01842 750050 or email gbw@bto.org.

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NEW LOOK

Shopper, price £20

DEBENHAMS

Butterfly by Matthew Williamson bag, price £55

SWALE SHOPPING

Right royal discount on Prince coffee table book

WATERSTONE'S is slashing prices on a host of best-selling books as it continues its January discounts.

And for music lovers there is the chance to make a 50 per cent saving on 21 Nights – a photographic extravaganza by pint-sized pop star Prince. The book, which features glossy photos charts his record-breaking run at the O2 Arena in London during the summer of 2007.

It's now available for £15. See in-store or www.waterstones.com for more details.

It's crystal clear what you should be buying

SPARKLE through the credit crunch with big savings on crystal jewellery and accessories from Swarovski.

Reductions of up to 50 per cent are available on some products online and at selected stores. Debut earrings have been reduced from £100 to £50, the Eliana brooch is down half price to £34 and the Champagne necklace is reduced to £313.

A Swarovski store can be found in Canterbury. View and order the full range online at www.swarovski.com.

Wave goodbye to tongs with a Spin Curl dryer

STRUGGLING with curling tongs could be a thing of the past with Remington's new Spin Curl hairdryer.

The company claims that the Spin Curl can create a head of natural looking waves without the need for separate styling. Hair is dried using a concentrator, then sections of hair are fed through a special attachment to create quick and easy curls.

Priced at £39.99, Spin Curl is available exclusively from Boots now.

Stérimar nose a good way to beat your cold

KEEP your nose clean and manage colds with the help of seawater-based nasal spray Stérimar.

Stérimar Isotonic (£5.99), is 100 per cent natural, drug free and safe for the whole family. Seawater contains elements known for their antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and anti-allergy properties.

Stérimar Hypertonic with Copper and Manganese (£6.99) offers relief from a blocked nose. Available from Boots, Lloyds Pharmacy, Co-Op and chemists.

Win a week's break to the US thanks to Asda

GET away from it all with a free fly-drive holiday in the US, courtesy of Asda Travel.

One lucky person will win a week's break for two in America, with free flights, seven days' car hire and a choice of pick-up locations. The competition is being offered in association with Delta Air Lines, to celebrate Asda Travel's new deals on car hire and flights to the US.

To enter, visit www.asda-travel.co.uk. The closing date is Saturday, January 31.

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DON'T MISS OUT: The Merton Farm extravaganza is proving one of the most popular on the music calendar and you can be there in 2009 as tickets go on sale this weekend

Festival excitement builds as early bird tickets arrive

EARLY bird tickets for this year's Lounge on the Farm festival go on sale this Sunday.

The discount tickets to the Canterbury three-dayer will be available from the official website.

Take my advice; get yours soon before they are all snapped up.

Tight-lipped Lounge organisers have confirmed precious little about this summer's offering apart from the basics but I can tell you this:

Lounge on the Farm, now in its fourth year, will once again take place in the glorious surroundings of Merton Farm, running from Friday, July 10 to Sunday 12.

The first line-up announcements will be made mid-March.

■ BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

Festival organiser Matt Gough said he was delighted to start work on putting LOTF 2009 together.

He said: "Kent's 'bestest' music festival is back. We were genuinely chuffed with how well last year's festival turned out – so aren't looking to make too many changes.

"If it ain't broke don't try to fix it. Four years old this time round so hopefully we'll be using all that experience and really start mixing it with the more-renowned festivals on the circuit – but in our own intimate style.

"What you can expect from Lounge on the Farm 2009 is the best in local music mixed-up with the cream of the international music scene.

"Add in a portion of the finest festival food and drink to grace a field – think local produce and local micro-brewed beers with a touch of class.

"Mix that up with a load of family fun, big smiles and a touch of the avant-garde and you've got one of the most enjoyable weekends in the Kentish calendar.

"Already with a few line-up treats up our sleeves, without a doubt this is going to be the best LOTF yet."

Last year's sell-out festival saw hundreds of top bands and artists perform across six stages, ranging from the Cow Shed to the Sheep Dip.

The line-up boasted the likes of Art Brut, The Coral, New York Dolls, Black Kids and Mystery Jets.

For more information and to buy early bird tickets visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.

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FUN: Enjoy life at Lounge on the Farm – filmed last year. Search 'Lounge'



ROCKIN': Black Kids at last summer's hit Lounge on the Farm. Search 'Black'



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Euston – In My Headlights (from Deal)
- 2 The Flack – Animal (from Deal)
- 3 The Novels – Who Am I (from Ashford)
- 4 Shelta – Lets Talk (from Bexley)
- 5 Euston – Save (from Deal)

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

CORONATION STREET
ITV1, Monday, 7.30pm & 8.30pm; Wednesday, 7.30pm; Friday, 7.30pm & 8.30pm

IT'S been a long time since Coronation Street was a regular part of my TV diet.

This most British of shows drifted off my radar a few years back, but post-Christmas seemed like an apt place to resume viewing.

After crowbar-wielding uber villain Richard Hillman had bumped off a fair number of the street's residents – but unfortunately not Hamster-faced Gail Platt – I figured it couldn't get any better.

In short, it seemed like a good place to call it a day.

On the recommendation of a friend however, I decided to take a look a few weeks back to see how life 'oop north' was being played out these days and what had become of the Rovers Return regulars.

She said it "was going great guns" so I tuned in, expectantly.

The good news is that Corrie still maintains a certain down-home humour, with characters like thick as two short planks Kirk, acid-tongued Blanche and, above all others, the curtain-twitching Norris, providing more than enough titter value.

Peter Barlow's battles with alcoholism have been deftly handled and the amusing arrest of Tyrone before his wedding was also great fun.

It is in its mainstay characters that Corrie comes into its own though.

This 30 minutes is as comforting as a cup of tea or an episode of Bullseye on UK Gold at Sunday tea time.

Just where would this country be without Emily Bishop, Kevin Webster, Rita Fairclough and intellectual moral



MUCH-LOVED: Coronation Street characters such as Norris Cole are now a TV institution

guardian of the working classes, Ken Barlow, as ever-presents on the box?

Up a creek without so much as a paddle, that's where.

I dread to think what would happen would happen if 'Our Ken' and his oddly fertile head of golden hair actually left the Street? The fall of civilisation as we know it, that's what.

More skilfully written than Emmerdale, and not as cloyingly self-aware as Hollyoaks, Corrie is, I'm glad to report, alive and kicking and miles ahead of its trashy counterparts.

Dripping in tradition, and with the kind of subtle acting the doughnuts on EastEnders would kill to be able to pull off, let's raise a pint of Newton and Ridley's best bitter to the Street.

If you are going to devote a significant part of your life keeping up to date with a soap opera, then at least have the sense to make it this one.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
YOUR ideas get lots of attention this week. Be as bold and visionary as you dare. Nobody will laugh at your proposals. We're emerging from a very cautious period. Taking a risk will breathe new life into an organisation or relationship that is threatening to go stale.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
IT may be time to pause and take stock of your career plans. If you've been thinking about switching industries, this is the year to do so. Have a talk with a respected executive who has experienced many professional twists and turns. Their advice will prove invaluable.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
A MEETING of the minds gives you renewed hope for the future. At times you've despaired of ever meeting a person who truly understands you. Recently an intelligent person has entered your social circle. Together, you could form a powerful romantic or creative partnership.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
TAKING a short trip to see family could be in the cards. At first this journey will seem like a hassle, but eventually you'll get into the spirit of things. If a relative asks for your honest opinion, give it. Be mindful of their feelings, though. It's possible to be truthful and tactful.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
YOU'VE always been a solitary person and that's especially true this week. Daydreaming is infinitely more interesting than work. Unfortunately, you don't get paid much for fantasising. Therefore, you need to schedule time to expand your imagination.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
YOU may have to undertake a long trip for work, education, health or religious reasons. Make sure your passport is up-to-date and you lock in your air and hotel fares. Heed your lover's advice with regard to your love life. Just because you are satisfied doesn't mean he or she is.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
DEVISING a new routine will keep you happy and healthy. It's important to exercise every day. You're the type of person who stores stress in your body. Having a physical outlet for these frustrations will make you sleep better. If you're looking for a job, you could find one related to the media.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
IT may be difficult to get off the phone this week. Everybody has been wondering where you've been. Actually, you probably haven't gone anywhere; you were just busy working. Still, it's nice to know you were missed. Take this opportunity to catch-up with friends.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
PLANNING a reunion for friends is a good use of your time. Too often you get so wrapped up with work that you neglect your social life. Take this opportunity to set aside time for the people you love most. Negotiating a higher salary is a distinct possibility later in the week.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
MONEY from an inheritance, tax refund or scholarship helps you to leave a restrictive situation. It's possible you feel guilty about leaving a friend or lover behind, but your very survival is at stake. Clinging to an unhealthy relationship will only make things worse.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
ABANDON yourself to books, music, and movies this week. Lately you've been spending a lot of time cooped up at home. A social butterfly like you needs to get out and have fun. True, you have responsibilities, but they shouldn't consign you to a life of drudgery.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
YOU'RE earning more money than ever so it's necessary to create a financial master plan or you could waste your time and effort. Keep in mind that you won't always be this flush. By putting a percentage of income into savings you'll create a secure financial foundation.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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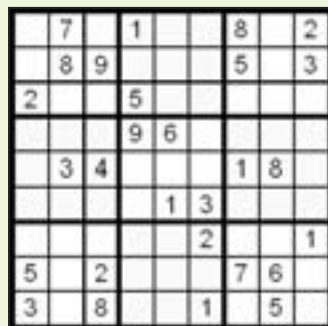
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CRYPTIC CLUES

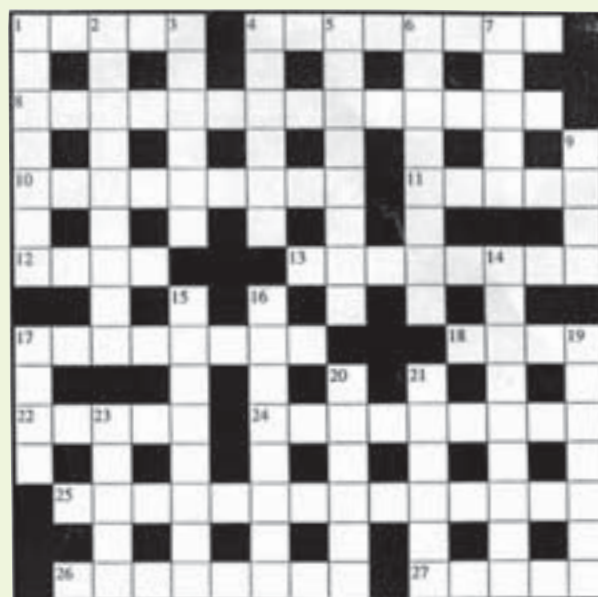
ACROSS

- 1 Primary graduates in charge (5)
4 Bottle contained 50 per cent, Jack concluded (8)
8 Coordinator with prize container (9-5)
10 Protect bird finding safety barrier (9)
11 Venetian magistrate trapped daughter's duck (5)
12 Underground pipe (4)
13 Scene Ron shifted into place appearing in television programme (2-6)
17 Contributor to state revenue (8)
18 Thoroughly replete (4)
22 Dog one going to a provincial senate (5)
24 By accepting ten, it appears, on chart depicting life history (9)
25 His improvement surprisingly not an enriching experience (14)
26 Scatter, it's only a light fall of rain (8)
27 Fertiliser tin returned by engineer (5)

DOWN

- 1 Bring in the past (7)
2 Notable fight by railway (6-3)
3 Lady is able first to find the country (6)
4 Sorrowful lads I'm shaking (6)
5 Lady is to come down in American state (8)
6 Jude and I can develop prejudice (8)
7 Soaked some of those denims (5)
9 Protein in maize included (4)
14 Kit's set of tools (9)
15 Dandy's pasta tubes (8)
16 Refreshing interval during working day (3-5)
17 Pile did not start with drawing-pin (4)
19 First gear? (7)
20 Not in any manner at present with one's sweetheart (6)
21 Raggedly-dressed child lurching within (6)
23 Do some more mapping and assign function to a different key (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Titlark (5)
4 Crustacean's cover (8)
8 In front of one's rivals (5,2,3,4)
10 Region in SW France (9)
11 Swill (5)
12 Vast (4)
13 People who are related (8)
17 Credulous (4-4)
18 Pant (4)
22 Life-giving (5)
24 Free musical composition (9)
25 Town in Leicestershire (5-2-2-5)
26 Marsupial (8)
27 Attain (3,2)

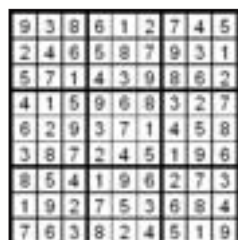
DOWN

- 1 Ancient Egyptian king (7)
2 Condemned beforehand (9)
3 Up to now (2,4)
4 Something added at the end (6)
5 Vigorous (8)
6 Tower block (4-4)
7 Melon (anag.) (5)
9 Stream (4)
14 In part payment (2,7)
15 Hothouse pest (5-3)
16 Juniper (3,5)
17 Billow (4)
19 Seer (7)
20 Greek sun-god (6)
21 Sharp turning (6)
23 Unit of flux (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No70

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No70

ACROSS: 1 Anchor 4 Caucus 10 Booby-trap
11 Flair 12 Cat's-paw 13 Ice-show 14
Recalcitrance 16 Lance-corporal 21 Aliquot
22 Regalia 24 Gland 25 Iguanodon 26
Exempt 27 Jaunty. DOWN: 1 Abbacy 2
Clout 3 Olympia 5 Alfreda 6 Cha-cha-cha
7 Stewrn 8 Prawn cocktail 9 Splinter group
15 Eradicate 17 Clued-up 18 Organza 19
Tangle 20 Vainly 23 Laden.

QUICK SOLUTION No71

Prophet 20 Apollo 21 Zigzag 23 Tesla
15 Meaty-bug 16 Red cedar 17 Wave 19
6 High-rise 7 Lemon 9 Beck 14 On account
2 Prejudged 3 To date 4 Surftix 5 Athletic
Kangaroo 27 Get at. DOWN: 1 Pharaoh
24 Capriccio 25 Ashby-de-la-zouch 26
13 Kristoff 17 Wide-eyed 18 Gasp 22 Vital
the game 10 Aquitaine 11 Rims 12 Huge
ACROSS: 1 Pili 4 Seashell 8 Ahead of

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Norway - Ålesund, Norway - Skjolden,
Norway - Eidfjord, Norway - Dover

Sunny Iberia

18th October 2009
9 Nights
On board Braemar

Inside Cabin - £572
Outside Cabin - £754
Balcony Cabin - £1013
Single Cabin - £1112

Itinerary

Dover - La Coruna, Spain - Lisbon,
Portugal - Leixoes(for Oporto) - Gijon,
Spain - Bilbao, Spain - Dover

Southern Warmth

19th November 2009
13 Nights
On board Black Watch

Inside Cabin - £858
Outside Cabin - £994
Balcony Cabin - £1372
Single Cabin - £1486

Itinerary

Southampton - La Coruna, Spain - Agadir,
Morocco - Arrecife, Lanzarote - Santa Cruz,
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Portugal - Southampton

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VALKYRIE (12A)



Valkyrie tells the true story of the attempt to assassinate Hitler. Colonel Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg (Tom Cruise) conceives a shadow government for when the Fuhrer has been killed.

THE WRESTLER (15)



Mickey Rourke plays Randy 'The Ram' Robinson, a top wrestler from the 80s, tempted into a rematch with an old wrestling rival despite having a heart condition which could cost him his life.

Michael plays out of his skin in lead role as Frost

BY SARAH O'MEARA

PEOPLE don't tend to recognise the name Michael Sheen until you mention Tony Blair.

Better known for his uncannily life-like impersonation of the former Prime Minister in the 2006 film *The Queen*, than for his roles in *Blood Diamond* and *Laws of Attraction*, the boyish 39-year-old actor is still trying to break free from Downing Street.

He's managed an escape of sorts in new film *Frost/Nixon*, where he plays another British institution, Sir David Frost.

The film began as a play by Peter Morgan and has already been a hit with stage critics, but will British film audiences admire his portrayal of the much-loved television journalist as much as they adored his Tony Blair?

In *Frost/Nixon*, David Frost is presented as a failing 70s TV personality, desperate to boost his flagging career. In a bid to make his name, he buys the first-ever television interview with disgraced ex-president Richard Nixon after the Watergate scandal.

Hoping to force an admission of guilt from Nixon and make broadcasting history, Frost takes on the ferocious former president who has other ideas.

Michael says the reaction to the play on London, Broadway and finally on screen, has been extraordinary.

"I talked with people who've seen the play, and the movie, and they say they get to a certain point and realise they haven't breathed for a minute. Any story that makes anybody that engaged, well it's a good sign."

The Welsh actor's knack for disappearing under the skins of famous men (he played Oscar's lover in *Wilde* and Kenneth Williams in *Fantabulosa*) assured him a safe acting passage to Hollywood.



COMPELLING: Michael Sheen stars as David Frost

But despite recent roles in *Blood Diamond*, alongside Leonardo DiCaprio, and *Laws of Attraction*, starring Pierce Brosnan and Julianne Moore, Michael still hasn't managed to eclipse the fame of his 'real life' characters. *Frost/Nixon* may change that.

Watching his attempts to catch out the former president (Frank Langella), is utterly compelling. Critics say his performance as the egotistical Frost could win him an Oscar.

"I felt like every time we did the performance, and then the film, whenever we were together there was always something real going on. It was never a repeat of what had been done before," he says.

The son of a part-time Jack Nicholson look-alike, Sheen says the hardest part of moving the play from stage to film was keeping it real.

"The challenge was to play someone who has, on the surface, a superficiality and light-

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yourkenttv.co.uk



weightness, but to try and get across how much things are unravelling underneath."

Luckily, the well-respected TV presenter has been gracious about the play, and the film. But Michael says that playing a person who is still alive can be complicated.

"I avoided meeting Sir David until after we opened on stage because it's a warts and all portrayal, and he's such an engaging, nice man."

Under strict orders to stay away from the notable television personality, Michael admits he accidentally bumped into him midway through rehearsals.

"I'd been sworn off seeing him by writer, Peter Morgan, and then I saw him walking down the street one day. I have to admit I was his stalker and followed him. I watched how he walked and all that sort of stuff, and took pictures of him on my mobile phone. To this day he's not even aware of that!"

FROST/NIXON
Certificate 15

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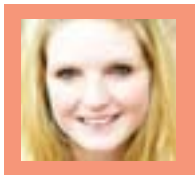
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Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema and animals, WLTm an honest and trustworthy male, 28-38, Box 446099 **1**

SOCCER FAN SEEKS SOULMATE

Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446494 **1**

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Lively female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555 **1**

HOLD MY HAND

Single mum, 28, looking for LTR. I enjoy cosy nights in, dancing, dining out. I'm 5ft1, short hair, blue eyes. Box 445363 **1**

A GOOD HEART THESE DAYS...

Tall, attractive, good hearted African female, 28yr old, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, WLTm a white male for friendship and romance. Box 441654 **1**

NO TIMEWASTERS!

Easilygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTm loving, caring white male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 444214 **1**

CHATHAM UP!

Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778 **1**

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 **1**

CANTERBURY TALE

Hi guys, fun-loving single mum, 34, WLTm the man of my dreams! I'm genuine, honest and full of life! Only decent, honest men may apply!! Box 406670 **1**

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **1**

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 **1**

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5'8", blonde hair, blue-eyes, N/S, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619 **1**

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Social, genuine, honest, single mum, 36, 5ft6, I've got hazel eyes and dark hair and enjoy the cinema, meals out. WLTm sincere, attractive, genuine male. Box 446840 **1**

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552 **1**

TRY ME

Ashtford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have 2 kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985 **1**

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **1**

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FANCY A DRINK?

Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde hair, blue eyes, love the sea and water-sports, cinema, animals, WLTm fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107 **1**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1**

NO TIES

Bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTm slim, solvent, professional white male, 40-50, for company, fun, love, laughter. Box 443573 **1**

SOULMATE SOUGHT

African descent female, 45, 5ft6, full figure, radiant, happy, attractive, loves music, theatre, travel, the arts, WLTm gentleman who is cultured, kind, solvent and fun. Box 443998 **1**

MAKE ME LAUGH!

Fun extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curvy, seeking nice guy to start off as friends with. Box 442905 **1**

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 **1**

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44yr old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easilygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810 **1**

SINCERITY

Hi I'm Marian, petite, blonde, green eyes, 46, looking for my Mr Right to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship. Box 447986 **1**

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 **1**

HELP ME OPEN UP

Caring lovely lady, 48, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTm male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 **1**

HAPPY GO LUCKY

Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH. I'm 5ft6, with short brown hair, brown eyes. I have lots of interests and WLTm similar guy. Box 895019 **1**

LISA THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

Down-to-earth girl, 48, 6ft1, blonde, medium build, like reading, walking, theatre, cinema, WLTm similar family-orientated man for lasting love. Box 448275 **1**

A NEW DAY BEGINS

Bubbly female, 48, GSOH, slim, non-smoker, enjoys outdoors, cooking, home-life, cosy nights in, eating out, cinema looking for tall, sincere gentleman, for friendship/relationship. Box 448032 **1**

ALL THAT I NEED

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833 **1**

LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE

Help me write my stand-up comedy routine! I'm 49, you'll need to make me laugh out loud and understand observational comedy to make the grade. Box 892640 **1**

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE

I'm a single mum of 42, catering manager, looking to find someone to have fun, laughs and enjoy life with. I like walks, cycling, socialising. Box 883204 **1**

COUNTRY LASS

Country-loving happy lady, 42, green eyes, long curly hair, good figure, looking for a genuine guy for a serious relationship and happy moments. Box 883723 **1**

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE

I'm a single mum of 42, catering manager, looking to find someone to have fun, laughs and enjoy life with. I like walks, cycling, socialising. Box 883204 **1**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **1**

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557 **1**

SCOTTISH LASS

Maggie here, I'm a Scottish girl, 39, 5ft2, been living down South for nearly 16 years. I like pubs, cinema, wine bars. Box 883010 **1**

CAN YOU HANDLE ME?

Bubbly upbeat slim blonde girl, 40, independent but looking for that someone special to have a good time with. Box 448251 **1**

PASSION FOR YOU

Medium build woman, 41, 5ft2, kind, caring, loving and tactile, GSOH, looking to meet a nice man for a LTR. Box 446890 **1**

REPLY to an ad, call:

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(Calls cost £1.20/min; contact your service provider for details)

REPLY by 1text

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easilygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **1**

WHERE R U?

Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim, looking to find an honest, loyal man. Ian please call again/leave contact details. Box 888747 **1**

CALL ME!

Recently separated single mum, 51, genuine and loving, GSOH, loves animals and stocky men, looking for a special someone to share fun nights in/out with. Box 448354 **1**

FUNNY GIRL

Petite, blonde female, 50, GSOH, likes music, books, films, cooking, looking for romantic soulmate, 40-55, for TLC. Kent. Box 835181 **1**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100 **1**

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young looking, hard working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 **1**

SEEING THROUGH THE SHYNESS

Attractive female, 53, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoking, WLTm nice girl, normal male, 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more. Box 446638 **1**

Quick, easy way to view a member's photo!

Look for the **1** symbol. Just enter the six-digit Box number, followed by a space, then PHOTO and send to 82250

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Add a photo of yourself

Register your number with us & send by SMS to 07746 738 788. Enter P2P as subject.

MMS - standard network charges apply.

ARE YOU MY BOND... JAMES BOND?

Kind, caring, attractive lady, young 53, 5'7", slim, brown hair/eyes, N/S, GSOH, enjoys walking, reading, travel, socialising, seeking tall, considerate, honest, solvent gent for friendship. Box 446079 **1**

ENOJOY LIFE

55yr old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, 5ft2, I'm divorced with a grown up family. I enjoy reading, travel, cinema, music, eating out. WLTm caring, genuine man. Box 446798 **1**

PISCES OR CAPRICORN?

Star-struck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea. WLTm tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240 **1**

CUDDLE UP

Medium-build lady, 62, 5ft3, likes dancing, walking, eating in/out, WLTm a caring and considerate male to stay in with on a cold winter's evening. Box 445123 **1**

LOVING AND GENUINE

Female, early 80s, tall, slim, modern, young thinking & very adaptable to people, own house, loves animals, walking & eating out. Box 440502 **1**

SINCERELY YOURS

Fit young-at-heart very active 69yr old widow, great SOH, lots of TLC to give to the right person. Enjoys walks and more. Box 448129 **1**

Women seeking women

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Curvy bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 889142 **1**

HOPEFULLY MORE

Feminine woman, easilygoing, caring, 45, long brown hair, blue eyes. I love music, eating out, reading/writing, drives, weekends away. WLTm boyish female. Box 448248 **1**

ATTRACTIVE, BUBBLY LADY

52yrs, 5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship. Box 414143 **1**

IS IT ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

Green-eyed girl, 55, 5ft5, size 14-16, animal-loving Sagittarius, seeking a bitch woman, 40-65, for companionship and comfort. Box 447712 **1**

WARM-HEARTED

Single friendly guy, genuine, honest, very affectionate, 43, 6ft4, slim, short brown hair, green eyes, WLTm affectionate lady for genuine relationship. Box 446879 **1**

ROB THE BUILDER

Medium build lad, 43, olive skin, looking for a genuine lady to spend the good/bad times with. Box 447658 **1**

BIKER BOY

Single dad, 43, slim, long dark hair, beard, tattooed, looking for a woman who likes doing mad things and having a laugh. Box 448420 **1**

A FINE ROMANCE

Easilygoing, attractive, affectionate man, 44, 5ft11, likes cinema, cosy nights in, music, seeking attractive lady for friendship/more. Box 429272 **1**

DAD'S THE WORD

Lonely single lady, 44, 6ft2, fair hair, great SOH, happy but looking for a lady, 30-60, to have fun with, hopefully something else. Box 446452 **1**

I'LL MAKE YOU LAUGH

Very romantic, caring and loyal male, 44, 5ft11, likes cinema, cosy nights in, music, seeking attractive lady for friendship/more. Box 429272 **1**

BUILD ME UP BUTTERCUP

Builder by trade, I'm a 44yr old guy, I like cars, TV, watching football, going out, cosy nights in, cycling, walks. You? Box 448205 **1**

CUDDLE UP

Single dad, 45, happy in life, would be nice to share it with lovely woman. I like animals, cooking, music. All replies answered. Box 448281 **1**

WINE AND DINE

Hi there, I'm a 46yr old guy, bubbly with a GSOH. I like eating in/out, cuddling up on the sofa. Slim build, green/blue eyes. Box 448116 **1**

GENUINE & SINCERE

Hard-working male, 47, slim, not bad-looking 5ft8, into most things... sports, pubs/meals, socialising, walks, travel...WLTm slim, honest, loyal, attractive girl with great SOH, for hopeful LTR. Box 444244 **1**

ROMANCE! PASSION!

Honest male, 47, likes cinema, walks, holidays, restaurants, seeking romance, love, the woman of my dreams for relationship and more. Box 448253 **1**

HEALTHY LOVE...

Hard working guy, 47, WLTm a young lady to life and make the most of life with, finding love along the way. Box 448305 **1**

SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO

Fun loving, professional male, 48, likes walking, pubs and interesting conversation amongst other things, seeks affectionate, attractive female for fun and friendship. Box 448298 **1**

ROMANCE, PASSION, LAUGHTER

Slim male, 48, 6ft, dark brown hair, eyes, attractive, animated, confident, eclectic, seeking soulmate 43-53 forever. Box 446553 **1**

PUT THAT SPARK BACK INTO MY LIFE

Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, meals out, walks on beaches. WLTm like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446212 **1**

WHO KNOWS

I'm a down-to-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves outdoors, sports, beach walks etc, WLTm an out-going female for good times. Box 895904 **1**

EVER CHANGING COLOURS

Young, fun-loving, single mum, 49, enjoys turning blue when it is cold, loves live sports and golf, seeking an active female, 30-39. Box 899003 **1**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Good guy, 42, 5ft11, medium build, short dark hair, brown eyes, various interests: seeking somebody for fun, romance, cosy nights in and more. Box 448428 **1**

ASHFORD MAN

Attractive guy, nice to be with, laid back, I'm 41, 5ft9, medium/stocky build, brown hair. Own business and home, enjoys walks, pubs, wine, restaurants, cinema. Box 437



PROPERTY NEWS

'Browsers' boost levels in interest but not sales

THE first weeks of 2009 have seen a surge in "browsing" for new homes, with the number of enquiries from those seeking to look at properties more than doubling even as actual sales stay low.

One online home sales group says enquiries are up to 429,560 in the four weeks to January 10 from 199,762 in the same period last year.

But potential sellers are discouraged by the falling market.

There were 43,000 new listings in the month to January 10, compared with 89,000 in the same period last year.

• Read what's really happening in your part of the county by visiting www.kentnews.co.uk/readmore.

Government support is welcomed by lenders

THE Council of Mortgage Lenders says it welcomes the Government's announcements to support lending in the economy.

The group said the conditions and level of fees imposed on lenders who wish to use the new measures will be particularly important in determining their effectiveness.

Members say this should mean more of the funding that is available may go towards home purchases rather than remortgaging, which would help to support wider activity in the market.

Get a price and advice on how to sell today

ONE estate agent is hoping to breathe new life into the market by encouraging home owners to get their homes valued.

Your Move across east Kent is offering the traditional free valuation but also £200 off fees as well as advice on the realities of selling now.

There's also advice available for those considering renting their property too with discounted landlord fees.

Jackie Davies, area sales director, said: "Many people know that the traditionally busy selling period will soon be upon us but may have concerns as to whether it is appropriate to sell, or rent, particularly in the current market."

"Across south east Kent we are hosting special 'valuation days' on February 5, 6 and 7 where people can check demand and value of their home. All for free."

For further details contact your local Your Move estate agent or visit www.your-move.co.uk.



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BARGAIN: Prices are still falling and discounts are to be had - up to 35 per cent in some cases. And with interest rates slashed too this could be the perfect time to snap up a home

Amid the gloom comes light for eager buyers

■ BY NICK AMES

IT will hardly come as a show to discover the general view among those in the property market is that 2009 is not shaping up to be a good year.

But there is still some encouraging news around for those who want to move house.

First the bad news. Prices are still falling — after a 15.9 per cent drop in 2008, according to the Nationwide — and some sellers are accepting offers of 20 per cent less than their asking prices while interest rates have been dropped to an all-time low in an effort to get things moving again.

But analysts have some good news — if you're not caught in negative equity — and can put

down a decent deposit — now could be an extremely good time to buy, they claim.

This is because so many homes are selling at a discount and others are coming on to the market cheaply as they have been repossessed.

Other figures show that some mortgage deals are being offered which are actually cheaper than renting in an effort by lenders to boost the market and get it moving again.

Figures released last week by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors showed that although the number of properties sold hit a record low at the end of last year, the

number of enquiries rose at the fastest pace since August 2006.

Research by estate agent Savills shows by the third quarter of 2007, when property values peaked, buying was 44 per cent more expensive than renting.

With the subsequent fall in prices, however, the gap is closing or not there at all.

"It's a cracking time to be buying," says James Greenwood, managing director of the property-search agency Stacks. "There's hardly any competition out there at the moment, so you've got the field to yourself. Prices have been discounted, there are distressed sellers who have to sell and there are some real bargains to be had, anything between 30 per cent and 35 per cent off peak value. We haven't seen anything like this for years."

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Two Bedroom Cottage, South Sittingbourne, Lounge Diner, 60' Rear Garden Approx.

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Bucklers Close OIEO £96,000

Three bedrooms, kitchen/diner, garage en block, central heating, no chain.

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Prince Charles Avenue OIEO £90,000

One bedroom, no chain, no stamp duty, front and rear gardens.

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Sheppey Beach Villas OIEO £59,995

Top floor two bedroom maisonette. Sea views. Well presented. Viewing recommended.

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Countrywide

Thistle Walk



OIEO £112,500

3 bedroom house with a downstairs cloakroom. Bathroom with whirlpool bath and separate shower cubicle. Good order throughout.

Church Road



£124,995

Three bedroom house, integral garage, driveway, conservatory, double glazing and central heating.

Lime Grove



OIEO £155,000

Central Sittingbourne. Three bedrooms. Driveway and garage en bloc. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom.

Sonora Way



£174,995

3 bedroom semi detached house. Central heating, double glazing. Downstairs cloakroom. Driveway and garage. No chain.

Yeates Drive



£175,000

3 bedroom semi detached house. En-suite. Double glazing. Central Heating. Off road parking. Access to A249 and local train station.

Hamilton Crescent



£199,995

Bungalow with no onward chain. South Sittingbourne. Driveway and garage. Central heating and double glazing.

Doubleday Drive



£175,5000

Extended three bedroom house. Bapchild. Convenient access to the A2. No onward chain.

Chetney View



£205,000 - £215,000

Three bedroom semi detached house, ensuite, downstairs cloakroom, garage and drive. Iwade village. No chain.

Albany Rd



£234,995

Six bedroom house, approximately 22' kitchen/dining room, two sitting rooms, utility room, garage. Convenient access to town centre.

Pavilion Drive



OIEO £244,995

Four bedroom detached house, double garage and drive, ensuite, downstairs cloakroom, fitted kitchen.

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2 **Waterstone Park - Greenhithe**
5 x one and two bedroom houses and apartments available
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15 x one and two bedroom apartments available
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13 x two, three and four bedroom houses available
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Available to first time buyers and existing home owners



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10 x two, three and four bedroom houses available
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Available to first time buyers



10 **The Kilns - Ditton**
3 x two bedroom maisonettes available
Purchase a home from £41,250
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers



1 St Mary's Island
2 Greenhithe
3 Dartford

4 Edenbridge
5 Gillingham
6 Ashford

7 Faversham
8 Sittingbourne
9 Cuxton

10 Ditton

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What is 'New Build HomeBuy'?

Also known as part buy/part rent, this government funded initiative helps first time buyers to get a foot on the property ladder. It's simple, you purchase a share in the property and at a later stage, when you can afford to do so, you can buy the remainder. A subsidised rent is payable on the un-owned share.

Housing associations such as Moat now assists households on incomes of up to £60,000. Minimum income and other eligibility criteria also apply. Contact Moat now for an application form and we'll send you details of forthcoming open days.



MOTORS NEWS



Alfa turns on small car style with super MiTo

RESURGENT Alfa Romeo has the new MiTo supermini in showrooms (from £10,995) and the Mini firmly in its sights.

Alfa has concentrated on eye-catching style and a good choice of petrol or diesel engines, but the small turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol units seem best suited to upholding Alfa's sporting tradition while meeting current needs for economy, hitting 60mph in eight seconds while averaging up to 46mpg, depending on output.

The newcomer also gets a maximum five stars in the Euro NCAP crash test.



Ka shows cash squeeze in the baby car sector

FORD'S all-new Ka city car has arrived as car buyers think smaller, but pricing is tight at the bottom of the market.

So the cheapest newcomer (from £7,995) undercuts its predecessor by £350.

The Ka 'Mark II' has also been promoted by the latest James Bond film Quantum of Solace – with glamorous Bond girl Olga Kurylenko seen at its wheel.

The newcomer is offered with 68bhp 1.2-litre petrol or 74bhp 1.3 diesel power, both qualifying for the cheapest payable road tax band (£35/year).



Baby Citroën is nosing ahead of its little rivals

CITROEN'S eco-friendly C1 city car (from £7,595) has a butch new front end for 2009, improved cabin and even better CO2 emissions and fuel economy.

Launched in 2005, the C1 is now one of the UK's slowest depreciating and greenest cars, with the new model offering improved CO2 emissions as low as 106g/km. The 1.0-litre petrol engine also now offers improved fuel consumption of up to 62.8mpg on the combined cycle while the 1.4HdI diesel offers an amazing 68.9mpg. Two new C1 trims are offered.



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: Vauxhall will be attacking German prestige marques BMW/Mercedes/Audi with their new-look Insignia which costs a lot less than its rivals

New Insignia stands for a big change in attitude

VAUXHALL'S all-new Insignia marks a fresh start as well as new name in the family/company car sector.

This arena once dominated UK car sales, but now holds just a tenth of volume in the face of rivalry from 4x4s, MPVs and upmarket German kit.

Vauxhall's own seven-seat Zafira midi-MPV will have inflicted hefty damage and you sense the marque's parent General Motors has taken note.

So the Insignia drops any pretence at chasing the staid and practical MPV vote and concentrates on 'comfort and style', attacking German prestige marques while still offering a hatchback option for diehard 'rep's car' fans.

Even the estate version looks sporty and classy against the final hearse-like wagon spin-off from the Vectra – the Insignia's increasingly unloved predecessor.

The Insignia also needed to attack the Vectra's old foe, the Ford Mondeo, which had a hike in quality and style this time around, while remaining within reach of traditional

ROAD TEST VAUXHALL INSIGNIA

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

fleet customers. The Insignia places it under pressure on all counts and prices start from a modest £15,935 – some £500 less than the final Vectra line-up. Styling is enhanced by two neat touches: blacked out door pillars lower a roofline that already makes the Vauxhall look like a four-door coupé, while the 'blade' detail abaft the front wheel is a master touch suggesting power and muscle.

If the car's sharp suit worries BMW/Merc/Audi then the lining offers little relief even if let down by the budget feel of controls for the driver's seat and other minutiae.

But remember the Insignia is still selling for Vectra prices. Even the sporty 'rep's favourite' SRi model we tested, with its aluminium pedals, climate control, comfy sports seats – including extendable seat base – quality sound system and smart alloys, starts at just over £18,000.

Diesel sales should dominate, of course, but our car's all-new 220PS (218bhp) 2.0-litre Turbo petrol engine impressed and could become the cult engine to complement the Insignia's taut yet supple chassis, for the Vectra's replacement looks and feels more like a driver's than a 'rep's car'. Do not dismiss without a road test.



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08 08 DAIHATSU SIRION 1-3 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£7995
08 08 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 1800 MILES.....	£10995
08 57 PEUGEOT 107 URBAN AUTO PAS 3DR YELLOW 10000 MILES.....	£6495
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05 55 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C JEANS BLUE 15000 MILES.....	£5995
05 55 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLUE 13000MLS.....	£6495

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04 04 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO SALOON AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 28000 MILES.....	£4995
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03 03 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR/C ROSSO 53000 MILES.....	£3995
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04 54 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1-8 XE1 BLACK AIR/C 5 SPEED 38000 MLS.....	£5995
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06 06 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 5DR TOURING SILVER BIRCH 6000 MILES.....	£6495
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05 55 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S AUTO PAS 5 DR BLADE SILVER 14000 MILES.....	£5995
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05 05 NISSAN TINO 1-8 S AUTO PAS TECHINO GREY METALLIC 15000 MILES.....	£4995
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06 56 VW POLO 1-4 S 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER BLUE 3000MILES.....	£6995
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06 56 MONDEO 2-0 ZETEC ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR BLACK 8000 MILES.....	£9995
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05 05 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR HATCH SILVER METALLIC 10000MLS.....	£4995
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05 05 MERIVA 1-6 ENJOY AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£5995
05 54 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS CD AIR/C DARK BLUE 12000 MILES.....	£5995
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06 06 RENAULT KANGOO 1-6 EXPRESSION BLUE PAS AUTO 4000 MILES.....	£5995
05 55 GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 9000 MILES.....	£5995
05 55 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£6495
05 05 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 9000MLS.....	£5995
05 05 KANGOO 1-6 AUTHENTIQUE AUTO PAS MET SILVER 14000 MILES.....	£4995

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06 06 PEUGEOT 307 S AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE METALLIC 11000 MILES.....	£6995
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

GERMAN COMPACT EXECUTIVES

USED car prices are set to firm up after being in freefall for several months, but this could still be a good time to snap up one of the three most aspirational cars on the UK market – compact executive models from the German trio of executive marques, BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz. In good times, the BMW 3-Series, Audi A4 and Mercedes C-Class hold their value ridiculously well, especially when considering the plentiful used supply, but recessions are a great leveller – and opportunity for those with the necessary cash and desire.

BMW 3-SERIES



REGARDED as the number one compact executive model for driving pleasure and sheer swank value, the 3-Series' crown is threatened by the numbers available plus new pressure from the Audi and Merc and other plausible rivals. There is plenty of choice, from hatchbacks, stylish estates and barnstorming M3 supercars as well as four and two-door stalwarts. Top engines are the classic BMW straight-six petrol and some smooth diesels – especially the 320d.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

AUDI A4



AUDI'S ambitious compact executive challenger used to be seen as an also-ran hampered by front-wheel drive rather than the rear-wheel drive used by the rival BMW and Merc. However, the overall rise of Audi and the cachet of its Quattro all-wheel drive versions has turned the A4 into the 'thinking man's choice', though the numbers in circulation may weaken prices. It perennially under-achieves on the driving front, but lacks nothing in prestige.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MERCEDES C-CLASS



MERCEDES-BENZ has put down a marker with the latest C-Class, creating a robust car almost as good to drive as the BMW and arguably better looking than either of its fiercest rivals. Combined with the most prestigious badge of the German trio, this makes the current 'C' sought-after on the nearly new market, though previous generation cars are less so thanks to a period of poorer build and reliability. This means there are bargains diesel estates being the pick.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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06 06 Vectra 1.8 Exclusive 5dr, A/C, Cruise, Alloys, ABS, Black Sapphire£6,495

04 04 Vectra 2.2 Design 5dr, 1/2 Leather, Automatic, Under 49,000 miles, Star Silver£5,650

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06 56 Fiesta 1.25 Freedom 3 dr, 1 Owner, Under 9,000 miles, Silver£5,995

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If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Toni Howes, Service Manager KCA Canterbury on 01227 454740 or Christine Gordon Admin Lead on 01795 590795 ex.2.

Closing date: 13 February 2009.

Interview date: 18 February 2009.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk

Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 548.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers**. Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email recruitment@kca.org.uk

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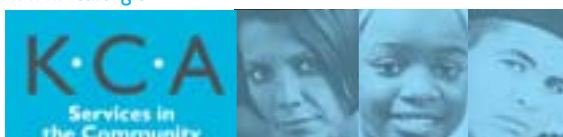
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Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for...

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2

£14,847 - £18,882 + SEN Allowance (£1,162)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338224)
Please note CV's will not be accepted.
Closing date: 13.2.2009

all seasons care services
 is continuing to grow and is still looking for
new or experienced community carers in:
 Broadstairs, Ramsgate, Margate, Westgate, Sturry,
 Swanley & South Darenth, Folkestone, Deal, Dover, Aylesham,
 Eastry, Sandwich, Sittingbourne

**URGENTLY NEEDED - Carers for our
 Care2 Team (double handers) in the Swale area**
 • **Excellent Rates of Pay** • **Free Training**
 • **Free Uniform** • **Flexible Working Hours**
CAR DRIVERS PREFERRED

Call 01227 265 899 option 3
Email: info@allseasons.org.uk Web: allseasons.org.uk

All Seasons is part of Enterprising Opportunities CIC in partnership with
 Canterbury and District Enterprise Trust (CADET), a registered charity.
 Registered Co. No. 6136630

Hartsdown Technology College
George V Avenue, Margate, Kent CT9 5RE
Telephone: 01843 227957 Fax: 01843 578002

This is a very rare and exciting opportunity as over the next 3 years Hartsdown Technology College will be redesigned and rebuilt as an Innovative centre of Education under the BSF scheme. As a result, there is a real buzz of enthusiasm through the college community.

We are seeking to appoint both a **MATHS** and an **ENGLISH teacher for Summer 09**. This post is open to everyone from a NQT to someone who may wish to become an AST.

- A creative and innovative teacher who can inspire students of all abilities.
- High levels of emotional literacy in and out of the classroom.
- The vision and commitment to help build on high achievement.
- To develop extra curricular aspects of Maths or English.
- In return we offer exceptional support, training and an experienced fully staffed departments both led by outstanding and enthusiastic Directors of Learning.

For further details an application form, please contact Danielle Skinner or e-mail: danielle@hartsdown.kent.sch.uk. Closing date: **2nd February 09**. Informal visits welcome.

Find out more on www.hartsdown.kent.sch.uk "A Good school with outstanding features" Ofsted 2008

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL
NORTH KENT COAST

P/T Enforcement Officer
22 hours
Salary £12,839 - £17,076 + 10% Flexibility Allowance

The Environmental Response Team was established to tackle a wide range of issues of high importance to the public ranging from noise nuisance, to traveller liaison, to animal welfare, through to fly tipping and other antisocial behaviour. The section has a very high profile and has had some significant successes. Expectations for the team's performance are extremely high.

This post plays a key role in investigating and resolving issues affecting the quality of life and environment in Swale. Responsibilities will include nuisance investigation, fly tipping, traveller liaison etc. You will be expected to participate in our weekly out of hours noise service on Friday and Saturday nights, 9.00pm to 1.00am plus two days during the week to be agreed.

Ideally you will have a BTEC National Certificate in Environmental Health or be educated to GCSE standard with 5 A-C passes including maths and English and a minimum of one year's experience of nuisance investigation or other local authority enforcement role. You will be a good listener, and competent in resolving customers problems. You will have a good understanding of IT, and an ability to use monitoring equipment, although training will be given.

For an informal discussion please telephone Alister Andrews, Environmental Response Manager on 01795 417320.

We welcome applications for flexible working arrangements.

In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, Local Government final salary pension scheme and flexi time working for most posts.

For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting ref: 733AM1.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk>

Closing date: 2 February 2009
 Interviews: w/c 9 February 2009

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Career Opportunities



Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Learning Support Hair

Ref SH/LS/HB

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting £16,914 pro rata per annum.

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to Town Centre

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 2nd February 2009 at 12 noon

CLICK
www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL
 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



Director of Human Resources MidKent College Medway Kent

Salary circa £75,000 + Generous Benefits Package

MidKent College is the largest provider of education and training in Kent, employing more than 1,000 staff and training over 10,000 students and 3,000 soldiers per year. In these exceptional times we are about to relocate to our £86 million new premises which are nearing completion in Gillingham, we have just commenced service under a Private Public Partnership

delivering training services to the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham and we are finalising exciting plans for the redevelopment of our site in Maidstone. To complement this we are currently looking for a Director of HR to take full responsibility for the strategic and operational development for all aspects of the HR functions within the College.

Role

- Lead the development of a progressive HR function to support the College's ambitious change agenda.
- Forge strong and professional relationships with the Senior Leadership Team and other stakeholders by demonstrating an ability to deliver highly professional services in line with the College vision and values.
- Contribute significantly to the organisational development of the College and make improvements to individual and team performances which in turn will benefit students.

The Candidate

- You will be qualified to a minimum of CIPD graduate level and have senior management experience of a strategic and operational Human Resource role.
- You will have up-to-date knowledge of current and emerging employment legislation and an impressive and proven track record of moving the HR functions forward in a large, complex and changing organisation.
- You will have a demonstrable track record of leading change and improvement, gaining the support of staff and achieving tangible results.
- You will have superb communication skills and the ability to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders
- You will be a determined, creative and results orientated individual with the ability to influence at all levels.

For full details and application pack please contact
 Katherine Reilly on **01634 884398**
 or email Katherine.reilly@midkent.ac.uk

For a confidential discussion about this exciting post please call Ken Pullan (our retained consultant) on **07725 128661**. Closing Date: 9th February 2009.



The brand new Medway Campus will replace the College's existing sites at Horsted and City Way.

September 2009 will see the opening of the College's innovative new Medway Campus in Gillingham, and plans are currently being developed for a dazzling transformation of the Maidstone Campus at Oakwood Park.

www.midkent.ac.uk



MidKent College

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

Career Opportunities



Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Director of Quality & Innovation

09/01

37 hrs per week, salary range £56,478 to £62,408 per annum

Acting Section Manager NVQs and Professional Studies, Dental, Nursing, Social Care and Counselling

09/02

37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum. Fixed Term post ending 31 July 09

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based

07/87

37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum. Fixed term post ending 13 July 09

Supply Lecturers Higher Education are required in the following areas

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

HE Tourism Management

S/HE/TOR

Counselling (must hold relevant recognised qualification)

S/HE/COU

Early Years (to teach on Foundations Degrees)

S/HE/EY

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Animal Care

S/AC

Veterinary Nursing

S/VET

Supply/Flexibank

S/HSC

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Midwife (ENB 997)

Registered Nurse (ENB 998)

Mental Health Nurse (ENB 998)

To teach on Maternity Care, Mental Health and Health & Social Care courses.

Supply Lecturers (Teachers/Trainers) are required in the following areas

S/HSC

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Level 2 & 3 Counselling

Registered Dental Nurse

First Aid Trainer

Information, Advice and Guidance

Citizenship

PE/Sport Trainer

Infant School/Early Years

Advanced Practitioner

02/128

37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum

HR Workforce Information Officer

09/03

37 hrs per week, salary starting £16,914 per annum.

Placement Officer

08/127

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £24,408 per annum

Service Desk Technician Level 2

SDT2

37 hrs per week, salary starting £16,914 per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care

TD13

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £18,963 pro rata per annum

Resource Assistant Animal Care & Land Based

06/08

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum

Learning Support Business

02/17

37 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time. Salary starting £16,914 pro rata per annum.

Teacher Education Administrator

08/124

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £15,085 pro rata per annum

Supply Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Health, Public Service, Early Years

S/CSA

Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

Supply Learning Support within Health, Public Services & Early Years

S/LS

Various hours available, salary starting at £16,914 pro rata per annum

Supply Administrator with Health, Public Services & Early Years

S/Admin

Various hours available, salary starting at £15,085 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 02 February 2009 at 12 noon



CLICK

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies



CALL

01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Abbey Court School "WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a EARLY YEARS TEACHER

for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence April 2009
MPS + 2 SEN Points

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit experienced SLD teachers or newly qualified teachers, or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN.

Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 30.1.2009

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP. (Tel: 01634 338224), stating the position for which you are applying.

HMYOI ROCHESTER & COOKHAM WOOD, HMP BLANTYRE HOUSE & EAST SUTTON PARK >



EXTRAORDINARY JOBS. EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.

Do you enjoy working in a challenging environment? Our expanding Works departments have the following opportunities available:

GRADE 2 PLUMBER £20,865 RISING TO £23,055 PER ANNUM HMYOI ROCHESTER & COOKHAM WOOD

HMYOI Rochester is a closed Young Offender Institution, housing approximately 360 18-20 year olds serving sentences of up to four years. It is situated next to HMP Cookham Wood on the outskirts of Rochester. HMYOI Rochester implemented an additional 300 bed temporary custodial facility from Summer 2008 making it one of the largest sentenced Young Offenders Institutions in the UK.

HMYOI Cookham Wood near Rochester has become a Male Juvenile Centre, accommodating 15-17 year olds, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board.

You will be required to work in Rochester and Cookham Wood and will be subject to CRB enhanced clearance.

GRADE 3 PLUMBER £19,851 RISING TO £21,074 PER ANNUM THE WEALD OF KENT RESETTLEMENT HMP BLANTYRE HOUSE & EAST SUTTON PARK

HMP Blantyre House is a semi open resettlement Prison with approximately 120 male prisoners. The Prison is situated in a rural location near Goudhurst.

HMP East Sutton Park first opened as a borstal in 1946. The prison is a Grade 2 listed country mansion house overlooking the Weald of Kent and is used to hold both adult and young offender women in open conditions.

You will be required to work in both Blantyre House and East Sutton Park.

For both positions, you will have gained a recognised apprenticeship and City & Guilds ordinary certificate or equivalent qualification and have proven relevant experience. A City & Guilds advanced certificate or equivalent qualifications, Corgi, Water Supply Regulations course and Water Treatments course would be desirable. You'll work 39 hours per week excluding meal breaks and be expected to work weekends on a rostered shift pattern.

In return, you'll receive 25 days' annual leave plus 10.5 public and privilege holidays per annum and entry into the Civil Service Pension by invitation.

To apply for these posts please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk
Applicants will require an email address in order for applications to be sent to them.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 8 February 2009.

For further information about vacancies within HM Prison Service and about our Prison Establishments please visit www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.



Ministry of
JUSTICE
National Offender
Management Service





Children's Worker, Ashford Women's Refuge x2 Part-Time • 17,000 pro rata

The Rising Sun Domestic Violence Project has secured 1 year's funding for 2 part-time children's workers to work with children living in Ashford Refuge. The posts are each 15 1/2 hours per week and are to be worked together. Each person will work 2 mornings and 3 after school sessions offering support, mentoring and preschool play sessions. We are looking for someone with an NVQ level 2 or above in childcare. Experience of working with children in an appropriate setting (school; playgroup; nursery etc) an advantage as is an interest in supporting children who have experienced living with Domestic Abuse. An enhanced CRB check is required. Only women need apply - Exempt under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 Section 7 (2) (e).

Please E-mail: emma@rsdvp.co.uk for an application form.
Closing date Friday February 6th. Interview date to be arranged.



Traffic Office Assistant

An excellent opportunity has arisen for an Administrative Assistant to support the Traffic Office Coordinator within this busy working environment.

The successful applicant must have strong customer service focus, the ability to work under pressure and be proficient in most Microsoft packages. This role will include working some Saturdays. French speaking would be desirable but not essential.

For more information call the HR Department
on **01303 261870**



Situation Vacant Career Opportunity

Full-time Sales Consultant.

Location: Maidstone / Paddock Wood Area.

Are you looking to start a new career or even embark on a career change, if so this could be your opportunity.

Your Move is a progressive, people focussed company dedicated to achieving the highest levels of customer service.

We are looking for like minded candidates who are highly driven, self motivated, enthusiastic and ambitious. Experience within the industry is an advantage but not essential as full training will be given. The role is diverse and the successful candidate will have career prospects. A full driving licence is required.

Candidates wishing to apply should write or e-mail enclosing full CV with contact details to:

Oliver Blake – Area Director
Your Move, 93 Commercial Road
Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6DS
E-mail Oliver.blake2@your-move.co.uk



St John's Catholic Comprehensive
Rochester Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2JW

We require two teachers to cover maternity leave. An Art teacher is required from February for 1 year and a Teacher of ICT from February to July.

If you would like to apply for either post, please contact the school on 01474 534718 or e-mail office@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk for an application pack. Job descriptions and application forms can also be downloaded from our website: www.st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk
Closing date: 30th January 2009.

Director of Sales Global Licensing



Oil Drum is an award winning environmental technology company with its head office at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

Following the success of our hydrogen based fuel saving technology in the UK, we have created a new position within the company responsible for developing global sales opportunities.

The successful candidate will take responsibility for identifying prospects in various territories around the globe, and will then work closely with the Oil Drum team to bring these opportunities to a successful conclusion.

Previous sales experience may assist, but is not essential. Candidates must be highly motivated and demonstrate a strong desire to succeed. This is a demanding position and as a result an excellent remuneration package will be offered to the successful candidate.

For more information on Oil Drum please visit
www.save-fuel.co.uk

Please send your CV either by post to
**Oil Drum Limited, Canterbury Enterprise Hub,
UNIVERSITY OF KENT, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NJ,**
or email to: darryl@save-fuel.co.uk only.
Please do not telephone. No agencies.

Full-time bi-lingual (French/English)
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
required for a small office in Ashford

Computer literate and attention to detail essential. Tasks include order processing, liaison with suppliers, translations, filing.

Please e-mail CV to contact@bmwines.co.uk
or call 01233 650 954 for more information
Start date: ASAP

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Brampton Home Care are
looking for new and experienced
Carers

to join their team in providing care and support
for those who still live in their own homes.

Hours are flexible, full training is given, all
uniforms provided. Car driver is essential.

For an informal chat or to apply for an
application pack please contact Alison or Sara on
01303 272348.

All post's are subject to successful completion of
Enhanced Disclosure.



CharingHealthcare
are looking to recruit

MANAGERS and DEPUTIES
for care homes in **Maidstone**
and **Dover** areas.

For more information or an informal discussion
please call Mrs Heather Viggers on 07534965270
or head office on 01322 385033.

*Any offer of employment will be subject to
satisfactory CRB checks.

Swift Security requires a Mobile Patrol / Supervisor

Must have full UK Driving Licence and
SIA Licence. Applicants must have
experience in Security Supervision.

Please contact **01233 650160**
for an appointment.



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From Whitstable to Dover, Ashford to Canterbury, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS. We work hard to improve health and wellbeing, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to have a world-class workforce. Invest your skills in us and we'll invest in you with personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and many other valuable benefits.

Team Administrators (3)

Ref: 767- ECC782

Band 3: £14,834 - £17,732 per annum

Templar House, Ashford

The Contracting and Procurement Department currently has two vacancies for experienced administrators to provide comprehensive and flexible administrative support to meet the needs of the team.

You must have a good general standard of education i.e. minimum of 4 GCSE passes at A-C grade (including English) or equivalent, must demonstrate good key board skills with qualification to RSA 2 level or equivalent, together with appropriate administrative and/or secretarial experience and be competent in the use of Microsoft Office programmes including Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

You should demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills, be able to organise and prioritise their workload, work well and accurately under pressure and be able to deal with confidential and sensitive issues in a professional manner.

Main duties will include: - answering telephone queries, dealing with incoming and outgoing post, typing letters and reports, filing, diary management, arranging meetings, taking minutes at meetings, information distribution.

Car driver essential as some meetings will be away from base.

For an informal chat call Heather Vague or Linda Todman on 01233 618345.

Completed applications by: 5 February 2009.

Interviews to be held on: 23 February 2009.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(☎) Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

For further information and to apply, please visit
www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk

We are an equal opportunities employer
Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults



House Manager Negotiable Salary

Required to run a Residential home for Adults with Learning Disability at our Sheerness home.

You must have at least 2 years previous experience on a management level.

To be confident, assertive and possess excellent communication skills (written and verbal) at all levels.

Experience of writing reports, undertaking projects and supporting the Organisation,

You will need to hold NVQ Level 4 Management in Care; RMA is desirable but not essential, as training will be given.

Must be fully conversant with Care Standards.

If you have experience we are looking for, please write with a full CV and covering letter together with a note of your salary expectations to:

Administrative Manager / Christine Morgan

Forward Care (Residential) Ltd

15Keycol Hill, Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8LZ

Closing date 31st January 2009

Previous applicants need not reply



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns
and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals
in the following areas:

Programme Area Leader in Sport

Ref: P0264

Salary: £29,267 - £32,898

We have an exciting opportunity for Programme Area Leader in Sport. You'll assist and support the Head of School in the delivery, management and teaching of all sports related subjects. The successful candidate will be educated to degree level and have a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Sport

Ref: P1000

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

The College is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic professional to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidate will be educated to degree level and have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification within a specified timeframe.

Instructor/Reviewing Officer

Ref: P0586

Salary: £19,736 -£25,441 pro-rata (22.2 hours per week)

We are looking to appoint a qualified and experienced Assessor/Reviewing Officer for Engineering, Fabrication and Welding. The successful candidate will be highly motivated and able to assess trainees on NVQ qualifications including, 'Train to Gain' learners within our successful Engineering department. A relevant qualification is essential and the successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards Assessor/Verifier and H&S qualifications.

Media Technician

Ref: P1001

Salary: £11,599 - £17,200 pro-rata (18.5 hours per week for 38 weeks)

The Media department is currently looking to expand its provision at Oakwood Park and as a direct result is looking to appoint a Technician to join the team. The ideal candidate will be able to provide technical support to staff and students and will be responsible for setting-up and providing classroom support.

Departmental Administrator

Ref: P0245

Salary: £11,599 - £17,200

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, who is able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Closing date: Friday, 6 February 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk.
Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



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Company profiles

Read about Kent's leading companies, view their current job vacancies and contact them with your details.



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Use our tools and create a first class CV. See how good your CV is and take advantage of a free CV review.



View the latest vacancies with new Jobs posted daily, read full job descriptions and apply online.

Take advantage of our online services and receive Jobs by Email, get professional advice, build your bespoke CV and read Company Profiles from the county's leading recruiter's.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Enterprising advice scheme extended

A SERVICE to encourage disadvantaged people in the south east to set up their own business has been expanded to reach even more potential entrepreneurs.

The Business Link Enterprise Gateway scheme has already helped more than 300 people from deprived areas set up their own companies and thousands more have received guidance and advice.

It aims to help people facing challenges, or those who haven't realised they have a talent for business and enterprise.

During the last five years it has been available in 16 locations across the south east and now it is covering deprived communities across the whole region.

In Kent, the service spans the county and is particularly focused in areas where entrepreneurial activity is low, such as Medway, the Isle of Sheppey, and selected wards in Sittingbourne and Dover.

Enterprise development manager Jane North said: "Our role is to work with individuals who would not normally consider enterprise as a viable option for them."

"They may have faced redundancy, health problems or just been out of the job market for a long time."

For more information, telephone 0845 600 9006, or visit the website by logging on at www.bringyourideastolife.co.uk.

Save money thanks to BCC and Staples tie up

IMPORTANT news for people brave enough to start up a business right now: the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) – the umbrella organisation of local chambers of commerce – and office stationery group Staples have teamed up to launch an extended help-to-go pack.

All start-ups that join the BCC will now receive a 20 per cent discount voucher to spend at their local Staples store.

The pack, which when it was first launched was to help start-ups during their crucial first year, has been extended to take into account the new challenges companies are now facing. Staples have stores across the county.

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Julie Maddocks asks: "In business, is small really beautiful?" Search 'crunch'

'Upbeat' county will weather the storm

■ BY TONY PATEY

THERE may not be any strong green shoots of recovery showing in Kent just yet, but there are some warm breezes blowing through the chilly economic climate.

Businesses across the county are reporting that while the credit crunch has taken a bite out of their business, they are – so far at least – weathering the storms better than elsewhere in the UK.

And much of the reason for the region's resilience is being put down to an increasing export market and a confidence both in the current trading environment and in what the future holds.

The Maidstone Economic Development Group of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce (KICC) found members were showing greater confidence under current conditions than the south east in general, and nationally.

John Taylor, chairman of the MED Group, said: "While these are challenging times, we are heartened by this positive attitude among our members. Clearly things are not as gloomy in Kent as the national picture would suggest."

David Foley, policy director of the Channel Chamber of Commerce which represents much of the east Kent coast, agreed there were relatively bright areas amid the bleakness.

He said exporters especially were in a good position to fend off the crunch with the weak pound.

"The potential for manufacturers in this area is considerable," he said.

Also firms which had a sound ecological base were doing relatively well because of a change in consumer sentiment, with people wanting more environment-friendly goods.

Mr Foley reckoned the three basic principles of good business were price, good quality and



ROUGH TRADE: Many Kent businesses remain upbeat despite the harsh conditions, local chambers of commerce say

service – with service being the clincher in rough trading times.

Peter Hobbs, chief executive of the Channel Chamber, added: "We are seeing lots of small organisations, particularly in the service sector, struggling as their sales begin to tighten."

"As a result they are urgently reviewing their costs and who they buy from, in other words their procurement."

"There are, of course, plenty of opportunities here for local businesses, for example, some local book keepers and accountants are reporting an uplift in clients."

KICC members in the service sector – rather than manufacturing – are upbeat.

During the three months to December, these members reported a "less dire decline" in both home and export sales than the rest of the south east.

Elsewhere, while order books are dipping and cash-flow worsened, KICC members appear to be performing better than elsewhere in the nation.

Interestingly, their levels of business confidence were higher, which is an important factor in getting the economy back on track.

An equal proportion expected sales to rise in 2009 as to fall, and although more expected profits to fall than to rise, this gloom was much less widespread than the rest of the south east, despite the fact that more KICC members were carrying spare capacity.

The higher confidence is reflected in pre-December employment which held steady, unlike the rest of the south east and the UK, and while there were more firms expecting to cut staff than those aiming to hire more, there was less pessimism.



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Picture: IGOR KUPCO



CUP WIN: Gore Court edged past Maidstone

Court go through after seven-goal thriller

Maidstone 3 Gore Court 4

DEFENDING Kent Cup champions Gore Court are on course to defend their title after they overcame a Maidstone side that play a division above them.

Court were bolstered by the availability of William Dixon and Paul Mills who lent some experience to the team.

The Sittingbourne side were out of the blocks quickly and this paid off as Court were awarded a short corner which captain Paul Surridge rifled in to the net.

Maidstone were comfortable in possession

HOCKEY

but Court soaked up the pressure and some good play from Doug Reed won them their second corner.

A shot from Surridge was parried by the Maidstone keeper but Mills was on hand to calmly convert the rebound.

The home side created a few short corners, one of which was saved by Alex Nicholls on the line, but a slack piece of marking just before half-time gave Maidstone a soft goal that brought them back into the game.

Court started the second half slowly and Maidstone capitalised by converting a well-taken corner goal.

It seemed to spur Court on and a great move saw Surridge and Oyler create a chance which Richard Dixon snapped up to restore the lead.

Maidstone squandered a chance to level when they missed a penalty and Court made them pay when Surridge scored his second.

Another good corner move saw Maidstone pull a goal back with only a minute to go, but Court held on to march in to the next round.

On Saturday, the 1st XI were thrashed 7-2 by high-flying Richmond.

Marsh jets straight back into first team

SITTINGBOURNE manager Gary Abbott has persuaded midfielder Kieran Marsh to return to the club.

Marsh left the Brickies just before the end of last season to go travelling and Abbott has been tracking him ever since he returned last year.

Ashford Town named him as a player in their squad but Abbott never gave up on his man and was delighted that Marsh decided to opt to return to Bourne Park.

The midfielder made his second debut in the 2-2 draw with Fleet Town on Saturday, coming on as an 80th minute substitute for Joe Horlock.

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Mark Stimson on Gillingham's pursuit of Chris Dickson and other transfer targets

Sheer delight after first win of season

IT'S been a long time coming but Sheerness East picked up their first win of the season at the weekend.

Dave Down's side earned a 2-1 win at Lewisham Borough on Saturday but they still have a long way to go if they are to avoid relegation from the Kent County Premier Division.

Milton & Fulston United dropped points at the weekend as they lost 3-2 at home to Cray Valley.

In Division One East, AFC Sheppey dropped a clanger as they lost 2-0 at home to University of Kent to drop off the pace at the top of the league. They travel to New Romney on Saturday.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



SO CLOSE: Richard Brady (left, facing camera) put Sittingbourne ahead and Tom Bradbrook (right) posed a threat all afternoon, but it wasn't enough to prevent Fleet grabbing a late equaliser



Pictures: CHRIS REGAN

Last-gasp leveller spoils Bourne charge up league

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN PEARSON

Fleet Town 2

Anderson 11, Hamilton 90 (+3)

Sittingbourne 2

Brady 3, Horlock 70



Sittingbourne starting XI



Subs used: Reeves (Manners 46), Marsh (Horlock 80)

AN EQUALISER deep into stoppage time denied Sittingbourne the chance of going third in Ryman Division One South.

In a very open game, both sides had chances to score, firstly Mark Anderson headed over the the Sittingbourne bar then at the other end Hicham Akhazzan had a first-time shot flash narrowly wide of a post.

The Brickies opened the scoring after three minutes when leading scorer Richard Brady, restored to the starting XI, slotted the ball under Fleet goalkeeper David Smalley after good work by Akhazzan and Colin Richmond.

The lead though lasted barely eight minutes before the Brickies defence failed to clear a Fleet corner and Anderson was on hand to toe poke the ball home.

Chances continued to fall at both ends. Nathan Smart crashed a shot just past the Sittingbourne far post, then Horlock found Rio Alderton who hit a shot over the bar.

Brady was felled in the area two minutes before half-time but the referee saw nothing wrong and in the see-saw nature of the game, the half ended with action at the other end with a Paul Harkness free-kick comfortably held by Matt Reed.

Sittingbourne had a chance at the beginning of the second half to emulate their early goal when Richmond and Brady set up a chance for Tom Bradbrook, but Smalley smartly saved.

Sittingbourne were pressing and Bradbrook's floated cross was headed narrowly over the bar by Horlock. It was all Bourne at this stage and a Ryan Andrews cross was headed just over by Brady.

Bradbrook was busy again on 68 minutes, this time setting up a chance for Akhazzan that was fired high and wide.

The pressure finally told in the 70th minute when Horlock's floated free-kick was missed by all and the ball ended up in the Fleet net to give Sittingbourne the lead again.

Sittingbourne's goal seemed to wake the

home side up as Nathan Smart fired just wide. Fleet were committing players forward and leaving gaps at the back that Bradbrook in particular was taking advantage of and on 79 minutes he broke clear but his shot was just wide.

With time ticking away and Sittingbourne seemingly having steadied the ship, it looked as though they would claim all three points. But in the third minute of injury-time, a through ball to substitute Jermaine Hamilton bypassed the Sittingbourne defence and Hamilton fired past Reed to ensure the Hampshire side shared the spoils.

• Sittingbourne were due to play Leatherhead at Bourne Park on Monday night but the game was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

Bright start sets Town on path to victory over Lords

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN PEARSON

Lordswood 1

Rothery 61

Faversham Town 2

Abel 14, O'Brien 31

A RETURN to form came at just the right time for the Lilywhites as three points at struggling Lordswood propelled Faversham up to third in the Kent League.

Boss Justin Luchford was forced to make changes to the side that lost 3-1 against Greenwich Borough last weekend with Lee Shearer, Dane Luchford and Roy Guiver all unavailable.

Gillingham youth player Liam Wybranec came into the defence for his first start while new signing Dave Botterill also made his full debut for Town.

The away side started brightly with Sean Hetterley making several telling runs down the right wing with his crosses causing problems for the home defence.

However, it was a cross from the other wing which led to Town getting the first goal on 14 minutes. A neat pass out of defence from Kris



Picture: TONY GRAY

OPENER: Damien Abel set Faversham on their way to victory with the first goal against Lordswood

Richardson found Steve O'Brien on the left wing who beat his marker before delivering a near post cross which Damian Abel flicked home past Arnott in the Lordswood goal.

Faversham Town starting XI



Subs used: Oyebarjo (Abel 70), Sparks (Botterill 77)

Despite having beaten high-flying Holmesdale last week, the goal seemed to knock the confidence out of the home side and it came as no surprise when Town doubled their lead on 31 minutes.

O'Brien, who was fouled on the edge of the area, stepped up to take a free-kick which he arrowed straight into the top corner.

It was a much more competitive Lordswood side which emerged for the second half after stern words from former Town coach Kevin Metcalf.

They started taking the game to Town and fully deserved their goal just after the hour as full-back Mark Rothery blasted home a free-kick in an almost carbon copy of O'Brien's first half strike.

The goal restored Lordswood's confidence and, as they continued to press for an equaliser, Town had Ashley Brown to thank for clearing a goal-bound shot off the line as they closed out the win.

FOOTBALL



Picture: IOR KUPCO

ROY A ROVER: Roy Guiver left Faversham to join Hythe Luchford not ready to rest on his laurels

ROY A ROVER: Roy Guiver left Faversham to join Hythe

HAVING climbed to third in the Kent League with victory over Lordswood at the weekend, Faversham could be forgiven for thinking about playing Ryman football next season. But not boss Justin Luchford.

The Lilywhites manager knows there is still a long way to go and with leaders Hythe making a bold statement about their ambitions with the signing of striker Mo Takaloo, there is plenty of competition for promotion this year.

"There are so many games to go yet so I'm not even thinking about it," he said. "If we are still in the mix in six or seven games then ask me the question. I'm just so pleased with how we have done because we are third now and if you compare that to last season when we were third bottom, it really shows."

Luchford was without striker Dane Luchford and skipper Lee Shearer for the trip to Lordswood and Roy Guiver left to sign for Hythe Town. Luchford admitted he was upset at losing Guiver and had hoped he would fight for his place at Salters Lane.

Faversham called on Gillingham youth defender Liam Wybranec for his first start, while Dave Botterill was also handed his debut.

"Liam had never trained with us so he came not knowing anyone but he did really well, I was pleased with him," said Luchford.

"Botterill did okay but you can tell he is a player. In training he is head and shoulders above everyone else, I'm pleased we got him."

"The first half at Lordswood was the best 45 minutes for work rate all season."

Striker Damian Abel was handed the captaincy in the absence of regular skipper Shearer, and Luchford said his display epitomises everything good about his team.

He said: "I think we have the best striker in the league. I'm not saying he will bang in 90 goals but his attitude is unbelievable. If I had to choose between Takaloo and Damian I would choose Damian every day of the week."

• Town were in action at home to Holmesdale in the Premier Division Cup quarter-final last night. For a report and reaction, visit www.yoursware.co.uk.



Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

CAMP INDIA: Kent Academy director Phil Relf

Future pace bowlers all set for Indian camp

CRICKET

FOUR of Kent's brightest young bowlers have an opportunity to be coached by Australian legend Dennis Lillee at the world renowned MRF pace bowling camp in India.

Two Academy players and two players on development contracts at the St Lawrence Ground are being given a chance to learn and hone their skills thanks to contributions from the Kent Supporters Club and Kent member Charlie Harris.

Academy players Matt Coles, 18, who plays his cricket with Hartley Country Club and Adam Ball, 15, from Bexley will be heading to Chennai, together with development contract players Phil Edwards, 24, from Gore Court and Warren Lee, 21, from Blackheath.

Academy director Phil Relf, who will be leading the group to India, said it will be a big opportunity for Kent's future pace bowlers and that it couldn't have been done without the two benefactors.

"Indian conditions are demanding with the climate and different wickets so it will be a steep learning curve," he said. "We want to get as much time with Dennis Lillee as possible as that will be a valuable experience."

They leave for the ten day trip on Friday. If you'd like to help sponsor the Academy, contact Phil Relf on 01227 456886.

Bourne back in business after cup disappointment

RUGBY

Sittingbourne 15 Old Olavians 8

SITTINGBOURNE put last week's defeat against Erith firmly behind them as victory against Old Olavians keeps them in the hunt in Kent 1.

Olavians started the stronger of the two sides, recycling the ball quickly and using their ever-dangerous backline to attack out wide. Bourne's defence held well, but the pressure eventually led to a couple of kickable penalties, the second of which was successful, to open up a 3-0 lead.

Bourne, however, responded immediately, with centre Sam Catlin capitalising on a couple of dropped Olavian passes and making good ground.

From one such drive, the Olavians pack were penalised at the breakdown and fly-half Scott Truss stepped up to level the scores.

Bourne were now in the game and were gaining momentum, as they kept the ball alive in the tackle.

The home side's pressure eventually told and Olavians were again penalised at the breakdown. Truss' second successful penalty gave Bourne a 6-3 lead.

Two further Truss penalties, as the half wore on meant that Bourne went in at half-time with a 12-3 lead.

The second half began with neither side really in the ascendancy. Olavians were still a threat but Bourne's defence, led admirably by Matt Fender and Chris Tombs, generally nullified the threat.



Picture: IOR KUPCO

RESPONSE: Sittingbourne fought back from an early deficit to overcome Old Olavians

The first score of the second half didn't come until the 15th minute, when Truss slotted his fifth penalty following some great work in close from Ross Cooley.

At 15-3, Bourne needed to really close the game out but, as is often the case with Olavians, who are the league's top scorers, stopping them from scoring is easier said than done.

After 30 minutes, a scrum in the Bourne half saw the O's full-back cross the line for an unsanctioned try but Sittingbourne held on for the win.

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